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First Annual Report

OF THE

UNITED STATES

CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

Monday Night, January 29, 1863.

THE Anniversary was a meeting of great numbers, enthusiasm, and power. The American Academy of Music was filled, thousands having applied for tickets of admission, who could not obtain them. George H. Stuart, Esq., Chairman, presided.

After singing the National Hymn, written by Rev. T. H. Stockton, "In the name of Jehovah, our banner we raise," prayer was offered by Rev. Richard Newton, D.D., and the Scriptures read by Rev. Joseph H. Kennard, D.D.

Rev. W. E. Boardman read an abstract from the First Annual Report.

The Chairman read communications from the Secretary of War, Bishop McIlvaine, Admiral Foote, and Colonel McKean.

The meeting was addressed by Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., Rev. Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Colonel S. M. Bowman of the Army, William E. Dodge, Esq., of New York, and Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania.

A telegram was received and read from E. D. Jones, Esq., Chairman of the Western Army Committee, St. Louis, Missouri.

Singing was interspersed, and at a late hour the meeting was closed by the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Morrison.

The occasion was one to cheer the heart of every patriot and Christian in the land.

This was followed by great and enthusiastic meetings in the Academy of Music, New York, Music Hall, Boston, the Hall of Representatives of the Capitol, Washington, and many other places, awakening a wide and deep interest for the bodily and spiritual benefit of the men of our Army and Navy, and encouraging enlarged plans for its accomplishment.

UNITED STATES

CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,

FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

WORK AND INCIDENTS.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

PHILADELPHIA, FEBRUARY, 1863.

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Other committees may have been organized, but not reported to the Central Office. Many are in process of organization in different States of the Union. These are all yet reported.

REPORT.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THE United States Christian Commission respectfully present their First Annual Report.

At a convention of delegates from Young Men's Christian Associations, held in the city of New York, Nov. 16th, 1861, the following persons were appointed as a United States Christian Commission:

Rev. Rollin H. Neale, D.D., Boston; Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., Philadelphia; Charles Demond, Esq., Boston; John P. Crozer, Esq., Philadelphia; Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D.D., New York; Rev. M. L. R. P. Thompson, D.D., Cincinnati; Hon. Benj. F. Mannierre, New York; Col. Clinton B. Fisk, St. Louis; Rev. Benj. C. Cutler, D.D., Brooklyn; John V. Farwell, Esq., Chicago; Mitchell H. Miller, Esq., Washington; John D. Hill, M.D., Buffalo.

The object of the Commission was to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the officers and men of the United States army and navy, in co-operation with chaplains and others.

Immediately after its appointment, the Commission met in Washington, and organized by choosing Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, B. F. Mannierre, Secretary and Treasurer, and Geo. H. Stuart, Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D.D., Rev. Dr. Cutler, C. Demond, and B. F. Mannierre an Executive Committee. A plan of operations was arranged; the approbation and commendation of the President, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and General in command, secured, as will appear by their letters, and the work entered upon.

The headquarters were established at New York.

Subsequently, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were separated, and Rev. A. M. Morrison, appointed Secretary.

During the year, B. F. Mannierre and Rev. Dr. Cutler resigned, and their places were filled by the appointment of Jay Cooke, Esq., of Philadelphia, and Rev. Jas. Eells, D.D., of Brooklyn, New York, on the Commission; J. P. Crozer and Jay Cooke on the Executive Committee, and Jos. Patterson, Esq., of Philadelphia, Treasurer. The Secretary, Rev. A. M. Morrison, after having served gratuitously and efficiently several months, also resigned, and Rev. W. E. Boardman was appointed in his place, and the headquarters were changed to Philadelphia.

DESIGN.

The design of the Commission has been to arouse the Christian Associations and the Christian men and women of the loyal States to such action towards the men in our army and navy, as would be pleasing to the Master; to obtain and direct volunteer labors, and to collect stores and money with which to supply whatever was needed, reading matter, and articles necessary for health not furnished by Government or other agencies, and to give the officers and men of our army and navy the best Christian ministries for both body and soul possible in their circumstances.

EXTRAORDINARY FACILITIES.

To carry out this design, Christian men, ministers, merchants, lawyers, surgeons and others, have offered their services freely, in numbers ample to distribute all the stores and publications contributed, and all the Commission has had means to purchase.

Our Chairman, Geo. H. Stuart, a merchant of Philadelphia, has given the Commission office room and room for storage; the services of clerks, porters, &c., and his own time and labors, free of all charge; and we have thus been enabled to collect and distribute our stores, select, send and direct our delegates, and conduct our correspondence in the best business manner, without expense.

The Government, various Generals, and other officers in command, the Surgeon-General, Medical Directors and Surgeons in charge, have kindly aided us by passes, stores, ambulances, transportation, and opportunities of labor.

All railroads applied to, have given free passes to our delegates, and telegraph companies, free transmission of our messages.

The American Bible Society has freely given us Testaments for distribution; the Tract and Publication Societies and Boards have generously contributed publications, and the people have given stores,—not enough to save the necessity of buying many things to meet emergencies and special demands, yet very liberally.

ECONOMY AND DIRECTNESS OF THE WORK.

These generous aids and valuable facilities have enabled us to do a great work at small cost, and confer untold blessings upon our brave men at little outlay of money; our stores have all gone directly to them from the hands of our own delegates, or of those known by them to be worthy of all confidence.

The money expended in arousing the people at home to co-operate with the Commission, has been very little indeed. The Christian men who have gone without pay as delegates to relieve, supply, and instruct the soldier, in hospital and camp, have just as freely told the story of their work, and of the soldier's necessities, which has served to interest the people, and secure their prayers, money, and stores better than any paid agency could possibly have done, while the Association and their rooms have served without cost, as the agency to receive stores, and forward everything without cost, and thus an economy unequalled in any great work since the days of the Apostles, has been secured, both at home and in the field, in collection and distribution.

PUBLIC INTEREST.

An amazing feature in this work, is the interest it has excited wherever it has become known. Meetings under the auspices of the various Associations and Committees, have been thronged from first to last, and full of interest. Stores have come in unsought, and contributions have been liberal and cheerful.

Our Anniversary, held in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, Thursday, January 29th, and the great meetings at the Academy of Music in New York, over which Lieutenant-General Scott presided, at Music Hall, Boston, and at the Capitol, in the Hall of Representatives, Washington, were meetings such as the world has seldom known for weight of numbers and influence, and depth of power and pathos.

WORK AND SCENES AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Steadily the labor at headquarters in Philadelphia has increased. Relief has been sought, and by division of work and systematic arrangement, found. Much that was done at first in the central office, has been turned over to the agencies at Washington, Baltimore, and elsewhere, and yet the growth of this work has been so great, that the burden, instead of diminishing, has grown from day to day. Besides the constant and ever-increasing work, there come with great battles and grand emergencies, special occasions calling for almost superhuman activity, energy, endurance, and skill.

An incident or two may illustrate the stirring scenes at headquarters.

Stores Gathered by Magic and sent Free by the Lightning Train.

A large delegation had been despatched at night for Murfreesboro with trunks of stores and letters of introduction and credit addressed to our agents in Louisville and Nashville. The news of Monday morning rendered evident the necessity for another delegation with more abundant stores for immediate use, and it was resolved to send them forward if possible by the Express train. An hour and a half only remained to purchase, pack, mark, invoice, and get them to the depot, three-quarters of a mile away. Passes had also to be obtained for the delegates, and an order for the free transmission of the stores by Express train. A letter was written to the Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Railroad asking for these. Half a dozen clerks were despatched here and there to buy the stores. Porters and draymen were set to work gathering, packing, and getting off boxes and barrels to the depot. At ten minutes to eleven the messenger sent with the letter to the Vice-President of the Railroad returned, saying: "There are twenty men or more before the door, and the door is locked; it's no use trying to see him." Thirty-five minutes only remained then until the train would start. Five or six loaded drays were already on their way to the depot. The delegates were all fitted out and ready. Instantly Mr. Stuart started for the office of the Vice-President, but instead of besieging it in front with the twenty waiting applicants, he went

round through a private way into a communicating office, and said to the gentleman occupying it: "I must see Mr. Scott; I have not a moment to spare; just open the door." The door was opened. Mr. Scott seen overwhelmed with letters and work; but the passes were signed, the order was written, and written permission given for its use beyond Pittsburg to influence other roads. And Mr. Stuart was back before the clock struck eleven, and then before the twenty-five remaining minutes were gone, the stores, thirty-five boxes, &c., were piled in, all marked, numbered, and invoiced, and went on with the delegates, free too, all the way to Nashville.

A Thanksgiving Dinner for the Men on the Heights near Harper's Ferry. How it was Despatched.

Mrs. Dr. Harris wrote Mr. Stuart what the fare of the soldiers would be at Bolivar Heights.

For breakfast, chunks of bread, brought in on boards, and mixtures called tea, served in tincups, in which they had cooked for months. For dinner, on the same board, is bread and half-boiled beef, and a mixture of grease and water called soup, served in the same tin-cups.

Mrs. Harris was in Philadelphia to recruit. Thanksgiving was at hand. She knew that our brave soldiers would have a cheerless Thanksgiving of it on the Heights, with nothing but these dry rations. She wrote Mr. Stuart, describing it, and asking for apples to cook for them, and some other things to give a pleasant variety. Roast turkeys and mince pies were not thought of.

Owing to the press of business at the office, Mrs. Harris's letter remained unread until the time for procuring and sending forward the necessary things for the dinner was too far gone to have done it for any other than such an occasion. Mrs. Harris, however, was ready to go with the supplies, push them through, and have the dinner prepared and served. Presuming upon the disposition of the railroad authorities to do extraordinary things for the soldiers, and for Mrs. Harris and the Christian Commission, the articles were procured with the greatest despatch, and hurried down to the railroad depot, to go on by the express passenger train. The railroad authorities consented to take them, and put them aboard as speedily as possible. Notwithstanding the extra-

ordinary exertions of all parties, the supplies could not be hurried into the cars in time, but the train was delayed until they were all in, and so they went forward from Philadelphia. All honor to the gentlemen of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company.

From Baltimore, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company sent Mrs. Harris and her supplies for the dinner forward in a special car detailed for the purpose,—the same car they had detailed for the President, when he visited the Army of the Potomac, after the battle of Antietam.

And so she reached Harper's Ferry, and so the dinner was there, and served to the happy soldiers, filling their hearts with gladness and thanksgiving.

It is worthy of note too, that the special car was run off upon a side track at Harper's Ferry, and left there, to be the home and storehouse of Mrs. Harris for weeks, while she pursued her noble work for the soldiers.

Telegraph Scenes.

After a battle, there are many thrilling scenes at our headquarters. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends gather to inquire for loved ones on the battle-field; the name of the soldier and his company are taken, entered in a book with the name and address of the inquirer; the message flashes across the wire (our messages go free) to the delegate, and soon, it may be, an answer of joy or sadness, is sent to the anxious heart.

After the battle of Murfreesboro, Mr. Stuart received a letter from a lady in New York State, saying she was a widow of a Presbyterian clergyman. Her only son was in the battle; she wished to send to him what money she could spare, and inclosed $2.50. At once the order went to the delegate to find the only son of a widow, and give him the savings of his beloved mother.

Thus we bring the home very near to the battle-field.

One Sabbath day several despatches from the battle-fields of Maryland (so urgent were the occasions), were received in church and answered.

GENERAL DIVISIONS OF LABOR.

The Commission has had two general divisions of labor, the one at a distance from, and the other at the seat of war.

The work in camps and hospitals at a distance from the scenes of conflict, has been under the charge of Young Men's Christian Associations, in such places as have loyal associations in them willing to undertake it, and of Army Committees formed for the purpose in other places.

The work at the seat of war has been done by the Commission, aided by the Associations and Committees near the scenes of conflict.

The various Associations and the Committees at a distance from the seat of war, have done a great and noble work in supplying the men who were in hospitals and camps near them, and those passing on to the war, with religious reading matter and various needed stores, relieving and counselling the sick and wounded, holding meetings amongst them, and gathering stores and money for the Commission.

Reports of this work, as far as we have been able to gather the facts, will be given hereafter.

First, however, we submit a brief and partial exhibit of the

WORK OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

This has been of two classes, *special* and *general*.

The relief and care of the wounded, during and immediately after battle; and meeting the wants of men in such places as parole and convalescent camps, and other emergencies, may be called "Special Work."

Whilst the supply of religious service in aid of chaplains, or in their place, for hospitals and regiments without chaplains, the supply of reading matter to men in hospitals and throughout the army, the distribution of bodily comforts, and the promotion of intercourse with home, may be called "General Work."

Both classes of work, however, are done mainly by voluntary delegates, with aid and counsel from the Committees near the seat of war.

Delegates are fitted out at our headquarters, in Philadelphia, each with his commission with railroad passes indorsed on it, his memorandum-book to take notes in and instructions to guide him, his haversack, stored with food for body and soul to those needing it, his blanket and strap, to be his bed at night, in a strait, and if going to the battle-field, his bucket and cup, and lantern and candle, to enable him to give drink to the famishing, by night as well as by day.

Supplies of stores and publications are sent forward for them to the rooms of our committees or agents nearest the field of their work; and for the battle-field, a trunk for each company of three, five, or six delegates, as the case may be, packed with choicest and best articles, for instant use for the suffering on the field, is taken with them as personal baggage, to make sure that they have them the moment they get there.

They are divided into companies, and each company has its captain appointed, and they are each supplied with a metallic badge neatly engraven,—

to be pinned upon the breast of his coat, and worn to distinguish him in any company.

And in some unexpected emergencies whole car-loads of special stores have been bought and gathered in an incredibly short space of time by the magic of an energy that removes all obstacles, and sent forward free with the Express trains to reach the field as quick as steam could take them. Forewarned of a coming battle, stores are sent in advance. These trunks are kept on hand ready packed, and stores are kept packed in preparation for a battle whenever it may occur, in boxes and barrels, marked "Stores for the next battle." And when forewarned of a battle approaching, they are sent to the most convenient place in the vicinity of it.

Our delegates are instructed to report themselves in all possible cases to the proper authorities, whether officers, surgeons, or chap-

lains, as the proposed work may require, for instruction and direction, and in every case to respect the established regulations.

Three hundred and fifty-six delegates have been sent, and three thousand six hundred and ninety-one boxes, &c., of stores and publications have been distributed by them in person.

These delegates have aided in the relief of many thousands of the wounded on the field, and in their removal to comfortable hospitals. They have washed and dressed them, taken off their bloody, filthy garments, and put on those that were clean and comfortable; cooked and given them food; prepared and given them drink by the way. They have prayerfully pointed the dying to Jesus, and when dead given them Christian burial; in some instances digging the grave with their own hands. They have written and mailed letters for them to their friends, have met their yearnings for sympathy, attended to dying requests, and in many other ways comforted, instructed, cheered, and benefited them.

They have preached the Gospel in camps and hospitals, from man to man, tent-to tent, to little groups and vast assemblies, in temporary chapels and under the broad canopy of the heavens, and afforded Christian ministries in all the many forms needed by our brave men.

The Work of the Commission for All.

Men of all sections of our country, and of all regiments of our army, have been alike and impartially cared for by our delegates. They do not ask what State a suffering soldier is from, or what regiment he belongs to, before giving him relief, but first pour in the oil and wine into his wounds, and get him to the hospital, where his wants will be attended to, and then ask him all about himself, so as to inform his friends at home; or if he has lost his descriptive list, write for it for him.

Even the wounded of the enemy, falling into our hands, are not "passed by on the other side." In many instances kindness to them has opened their hearts, and induced free expression of penitence as well as gratitude.

They have visited nearly all the battle-fields of the war with their blessed ministrations, and labored in nearly all the camps and hospitals of the whole army.

Stores and publications, amounting in value to one hundred and forty-two thousand one hundred and fifty dollars, have been distributed to soldiers in hospitals and camps.

They have given personally to our brave men, one hundred and two thousand five hundred and sixty Bibles and Testaments, one hundred and fifteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven books, large and small, thirty-four thousand six hundred and fifty-three magazines and pamphlets, religious and secular, one hundred and thirty thousand six hundred and ninety-seven Soldiers' and Sailors' hymn and psalm books, three hundred thousand temperance documents, and ten million nine hundred and fifty-three thousand seven hundred and six pages of tracts.

Aid has also been given in the formation of libraries, and in securing newspapers and the larger periodicals for reading-rooms in some of the United States General Hospitals.

A connected history, embracing all the details of this work, with its many thrilling scenes and incidents, would swell our report to a mammoth volume. All we can attempt is a few brief sketches of campaigns, battle-fields, and camps, with a few specimen incidents as illustrations of the whole work.

THE BATTLE OF SHILOH, OR PITTSBURG LANDING,

Called out a large number of delegates from the Chicago Association. With their stores, they travelled seven or eight hundred miles, to reach and relieve our noble sufferers.

Large numbers of the wounded were taken to St. Louis, and there came under the influence of the Western Army Committee and their excellent helpers.

THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN

Was the first to call forth good men in any great numbers to go as delegates of the Commission, and the first to induce the public to send stores in freely for our delegates to distribute. Many men of high standing and great worth offered themselves, and were commissioned and sent. Their labors were abundant, and the good done was immeasurable. By their unwearied labors and self-forgetful exposures and hardships, some of them were prostrated, and driven to return, long enough to recruit strength; in most instances, however, only to go again and again.

The sick and wounded soldiers suffering for help, the eager desire of the well and the ill to receive religious counsel, and the scenes of thrilling interest incident to their work, haunted them when away, and constrained them to go back, and nerved them then to work beyond their powers of endurance.

A Martyr to the Work.

Rev. F. D. Ladd, pastor of the North Penn Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, overworked himself, and induced an attack of fever, terminating in his death. At home, he was abundant in labor. His sympathies for sufferers and for sinners were large, generous, and warm; his affections, deep and strong. Our country had no truer patriot amongst its sons. The work of the Commission took such deep hold of his noble nature, as to lead him on, irresistibly and insensibly, until he was completely overborne, and fell *a martyr* to his love of Christ, our country, and our brave men of the army. He was buried from his own church, amidst the tears of his people, and of a great concourse of ministers and citizens.

In all, there were forty-six delegates sent to the Peninsula, and some of them have never left the work of the Commission. They visited the hospitals called "Hygeia," at Fortress Monroe, "Mill Creek," "The Seminary," "Harrison House," and the various field hospitals at White House, Savage's Station, and the field hospitals and hospitals in the houses appropriated to hospital purposes before Richmond, and aided in the care of the wounded of the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, and the seven days before Richmond; they ministered to thousands prostrated by sickness, exposure and hardships at Yorktown, and in the Chickahominy swamps; attended to the sick and wounded on their way to hospitals at Philadelphia and elsewhere, on board steamboats; distributed religious reading matter; held meetings; wrote letters for the soldiers, and pointed many souls to Jesus.

Lives Saved.

Rev. Mr. Bringhurst, an Episcopal clergyman of Philadelphia, writing from Yorktown, says:

"The soldiers declare, that had it not been for the aid of the deputation of the Commission, many more of them must have died;" and he adds, "Send on good working men—men who can

attend to the body as well as the soul; men who are willing to work as well as to preach."

That Mr. Bringhurst himself could preach as well as work, and care for the soul as well as the body, is evinced by the following incident, selected from many related by him:

One of the "Lost Children" Found.

After a prayer-meeting at Yorktown, in the month of July, as I was returning to my quarters, my attention was arrested by footsteps behind me. Turning, I met the gaze of a young soldier belonging to a regiment called the "Lost Children." "O, sir," said he, "won't you please tell me how I can be a Christian? I was at prayer-meeting to-night, and felt as though I could talk with you." "What made you think of being a Christian?" I asked. "Why, sir, when I was on guard I was thinking of a beautiful hymn I had read in my Soldier's Hymn-book, beginning, 'Rock of ages, cleft for me,' and I wondered if I could not be built upon that rock." "Certainly you can," I replied; "shall we pray together?" Then on the dusty roadside, beneath the stars, a prayer went up to God which sent the weary soldier-boy to his duties with a light and happy heart. I afterwards fell in with him, and found him resting on the "Rock."

The Soldier's Blessing

Comes upon the donors at home, the delegates in the work, and the Christian Commission, from thousands of grateful hearts. Often and often the tender and earnest "God bless you and them that send you!" or, "God bless you and the good people at home!" or, "God bless you and the Christian Commission!" falls upon the ears of our delegates from the soldier when they have relieved bodily suffering; and when they have been the means of leading them to Jesus, their gratitude has been still deeper and more abiding.

The following *Letter from a Soldier*, received by Rev. George J. Mingins after he had returned from the Peninsula, is an evidence of this:

"YORKTOWN, June 25th, 1862.

"It is with pleasure I now sit down to express such praise as my language will admit in admiration of one who, although a

stranger, has impressed my mind with a sense of religion. . . . I resolved to stand up for Jesus, to acknowledge my sins before the world and God. So the other evening I went to church, and amidst my comrades stood up, told them I was a sinner, and asked them to pray for me. This was granted in full earnest, and, sir, I am in hopes their prayers were heard. What I want to speak of most is this: we want the prayers of those at home. How easy, sir, it would be for your congregation to meet and pray God to assist us. I know He will hear your prayers."

This man was known afterwards as leading a godly and consistent life.

From Yorktown, Mr. Mingins himself, by letter, gave a very touching instance of grateful expression from a soldier. He says:

"As we entered a tent, we were much struck with the appearance of a man evidently fast passing away. He was fine-looking, dark hair, full intellectual face, lustrous eyes. He had no bed, but straw on the bare ground. His blanket was filthy; his underclothing full of vermin. We washed him; changed him; made a cot for him; placed him on it; gave him nourishing food; spoke to him of home, of mother, of Jesus. Slowly turning, he took my hand, drew it to his face, tried to thank me—could not. What then? Tears fell upon the hand he held. His gratitude was made more manifest than words could tell."

This incident illustrates the

Eleventh Hour Opportunities

of our delegates for leading men to Jesus. No other field affords so many or those so favorable.

The good seed sown in the Sunday-school, the church, the home, after long lying dormant, is suddenly caused to germinate, grow, and ripen by the certainty of death near at hand. Then comes the delegate with his counsels, pointing the way of life.

Rev. J. O. Sloane, in the voluminous report of his abundant labors on the Peninsula, gives many instances of this kind. Amongst others, Sergeant L——, of Company E, Michigan 2d. He was shot through the lungs, and almost gone. He was not able to say much, but as death approached he was led to lean

upon Jesus. In a second interview he requested Mr. Sloane to read the twelfth chapter of Hebrews. His words were scarcely audible and very few, but plainly showed that he was applying the truth to himself; that his own sufferings, hard as they were to bear, were yet for his profit; that he might partake of the holiness and joy of the Savior. Next morning he passed peacefully away.

Another instance is that of Andrew B——, Company I, 1st Massachusetts. He had been well taught as to the way of salvation, and had no hope of recovery. He spoke tenderly of his mother and of his wife and child. He felt anxious that his child should be trained up for God. He was counselled by Mr. Sloane to cast his care for himself and his loved ones upon the Lord Jesus, and leave all with Him. A second visit in the night was made to him. He calmly expressed his firm trust in the Savior. When Mr. Sloane rose to leave, the dying soldier said: "Now you will not see me in the morning; I shall be gone. Offer one more prayer with me. Ask God to give me strong faith for the dark valley." The prayer was offered, and he said: "There, now you may go. I hope to meet you in heaven." In the morning he was gone.

Comfort afforded by Delegates to Wounded and Dying Men.

(Rev. Mr. Corey's Report, p. 4, July 24th, 1862.)

I assisted in taking one young man on board one of the hospital steamers. He was scarcely nineteen years. I saw that he was dying, and watched to see him breathe his last. As I bathed his hands, reaching up his arms, he threw them around my neck and drew my face down to his. I could only learn that his name was Watkins. Amid the din I heard him murmur something about "drill." Poor fellow, his drilling was over. In the dead-house next morning I recognized him, his eyes unclosed, form stiffened in death.

Home in the Heart of our Soldiers. Christian Burial to the Soldier.

A fine-looking youth was brought in from his regiment to the general hospital, ill only three or four days. He had a likeness

of his sister and of his dead mother suspended from his neck in a beautiful golden locket. All through the night he exclaimed in his delirium, "I have a sister on my heart; I have a sister on my heart." Next afternoon we buried him beneath the overhanging branches of a tree. Two or three contrabands and three or four others were there. There were sobs and tears from strangers over his humble grave. O, it is impossible to describe one's feelings when burying our braves. One thinks of the loved ones far away all unconscious of their great loss.

He writes from Pamunkey River: "Opportunities to relieve suffering and to reach the heart with the truths of salvation, which in ordinary circumstances are spread over many years, if they are found at all, are here to be found in days or hours. They are so grateful for things which are scarcely valued at home, and with what solemnity and earnestness, often with eyes overflowing with tears, they listen to the word of life, and unite in praise or prayer! I know of no other expenditure of means or men which promises so much good."

Wisdom of relieving Bodily Sufferings before giving Spiritual Instruction Illustrated.

Christian sympathy seeks to benefit men soul and body. When a man is starving, Christianity offers him bread first, not a Baxter's Call; and if famishing with thirst, it gives him the cup of cold water, in the name of a disciple, not a Testament; and the Christian Commission sends its delegates and fills their hands with stores, that they may first give food and drink to the suffering, and wash and dress their wounds, and put clean, comfortable clothing upon them; and then, as disciples, tell them of Jesus, in whose name it is done, and lead them to Him for salvation.

The wisdom of this, is illustrated by an instance in which the mistake was made,—

A Mistake not made a second time,—

Of giving religious instruction before bodily relief.

Mr. Jones describes the garret of the old Harrison mansion, at Harrison's Landing, with its eighty-five men stowed away under the scorching roof. He says, their boots were so hardened by the intense heat, that they had to cut them off with a knife, in

order to bathe their feet. The attendants refused to work there. The delegates undertook to do what they could. They prepared buckets of cool, nice lemonade, and took them up on the stairs leading to the garret; the stairs were so narrow that only one at a time could ascend. Leaving the lemonade out of sight on the stairs, Rev. Mr. S. proposed a short religious service, read some of the comforting words of Jesus, from the Gospel by St. John, and talked very tenderly of home, of heaven, and of the Savior. Good was done, no doubt; but not so much as if the lemonade had come first. After the service, they passed around their buckets and cups, and more than one said to Mr. Jones, "Ah! Doctor! Doctor! this is better than talk!" and to Mr. S. others said, "Pardon me, sir; your talk was excellent, but this cooling drink is the best now."

A Brother's Burial.

Many a sad necessity like that revealed by the touching incident which follows, has been altogether saved or greatly relieved of its lonely sadness, by our delegates. A lad not quite sixteen, asked by Mr. Sloane whether he had any brothers in the army, answered, "I had one, but he was killed at Williamsburg; he fell at my side. I found him after the battle dying; all he could say was, 'Try and get a box to bury me in.' I could not find one, but got three cracker-boxes, took the ends out, placed them end to end, and put his body into them; then with my bayonet and my hands, I hollowed out a place, not very deep, though I worked hours at it, and there I laid him, with no one to help me, and there his body is now." Mr. Sloane writes of burying between fifteen and twenty from one hospital, and more than fifty from another.

Desire for Meetings. Tents fitted up by the Soldiers for them.

Rev. Anthony Simpson writes from Fortress Monroe, Sept. 16th, 1862:

"A little while ago I left an exceedingly blessed and solemn prayer-meeting, held in a hospital tent. We hold them daily. We doubted at first, but they have been a glorious success. The soldiers seem to enjoy them. Without saying anything about it,

they fitted up two large vacant hospital tents for the purpose. They placed them end to end, and being square, the two make a respectable chapel tent. Our meeting this evening was there."

Hard Work.

Men do not volunteer as delegates of the Commission because the work is easy, and a pleasant recreation. Never was there a service requiring or exciting more self-denying and ceaseless toil. Many things done by them cheerfully, for the love they bear to the soldier, the Master, and the country, money could not have hired them to do.

Rev. Mr. Sloane writes from Yorktown, saying: "Those who have labored in this noble cause, have found that far more is to be done than talking, distributing publications, and praying. They have had to nurse, dress wounds, strip off filthy garments, wash the blood and dust of hard fights and hard marches off from helpless soldiers; cleanse them of vermin, and put upon them clean and comfortable clothing; dig graves for the dead, lift and open boxes, make wearisome visits on foot, sleep on the ground, or floor, or bags, or boxes, and often work from daylight until midnight, or all night long, with little to eat except dry bread or crackers, and meat without cooking."

And, closing his report of the Peninsular service for the Christian Commission, Mr. Sloane, speaking for the delegation generally, says: "We found many sinking with fever and other diseases, unable to help themselves, with few to help them, in a most wretched condition; clothes not changed, or face and hands not washed for weeks. We spent days, basin, soap and towel in hand, going from man to man to wash them and change their clothes.

"Others with us, were engaged in like manner. Mrs. Dr. Harris, of Philadelphia, so widely known for her good works; Mrs. S., from Maine, and Judge Clark, of Michigan.

"And in all this work, everywhere, we distributed our stores with our own hands, directly to the soldiers; gave them religious reading matter, and had precious opportunities to whisper in their ears words of salvation, and breathe prayers for God's blessing, and guide the dying to Jesus, and often to address the groups, larger or smaller, as we found them collected together."

POPE'S BATTLES BEFORE WASHINGTON.

Leaving the Peninsula with the Army of the Potomac, Rev. W. H. Corey, of New Hampshire, one of our delegates, hastened up to Warrenton, where he met the wounded from the battle of Cedar Mountain, and rendered signal service to them.

Besides all other kind and Christian offices for them, he saved four car-loads from the hands of the enemy. With such assistance as some of the wounded themselves could render him, he rolled the four cars with their living freight of mangled men, three or four miles, to a point where locomotives could take them. In doing this, he wore his shoes off entirely, and came into Fairfax Court House barefoot, then down to Fairfax Station, where he was ready for the further work thrown upon our men by the later battles.

As another illustration of the self-sacrificing spirit of the men who have so freely given time and toil to this Christ-like service, it ought not to go untold, that Mr. Corey worked on until, when he returned to his church and home, in New Hampshire, he almost died from the effects of it.

The Second Bull Run Battle,

With the famous despatches of General Pope, electrified the whole country, and the Commission sent forward a delegation of twenty-two men to aid in the relief and removal of the wounded.

The ways to the battle-fields, both by the wagon-road from Washington to Manassas, and by the railroad through Alexandria, were so overcrowded and choked up, and the difficulties of getting to the field so great, that but for the efficient aid of the gentlemanly master of transportation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Mr. Smith, and General Haupt, the Military Director of the Railroad, the delegation would have failed entirely to get to the scenes of carnage. As it was, about half of them remained at Washington and Alexandria to assist in giving food and drink to the sufferers as they came, train after train, by the cars, and in removing them from the cars to the hospitals. The others pressed on, and were the first on the field.

The Scene at Fairfax Station,

Where the wounded were brought from the battle-field, as it met the eyes of the delegates on their arrival, was strange and heart-rending. Acres of mangled men were there lying on the ground. Many of them had neither had food or drink for twenty-four or some even forty-eight hours, and besides the agony of their wounds they were almost dead of hunger and thirst.

We did not then understand how to fit out our men as we do now. They had no lanterns, and had to make a candlestick of one hand, whilst with the other they served the men. They had taken no buckets or cups from home, and could find in Washington only some butter-tubs with bales, instead of buckets. These, however, were immensely useful, and helped, no doubt, to save many lives. A contraband was charged with the business of making coffee in a large camp-kettle, and as fast as it was made the delegates filled their buckets, and, candle in hand, went from group to group and man to man, giving coffee to the poor sufferers, who were crying out: "Give me some coffee; I have had none for a whole day," or for two days, as the case might be. And whenever the coffee-kettle failed them, the delegates laid a poor reluctant spring near by under tribute for water not over clear, and gave that instead.

Before morning, all had been served at least with the cup of cold water and with a soft cracker, if no more; and about seven hundred had been helped aboard the cars, the helpless carefully carried and laid in on hay spread on the floor; those who could walk were arranged on top.

With the morning, Dr. Rauch, Medical Director of Pope's army, came from another field, and Rev. Mr. Boardman, who was in charge of the delegation, reported to him. Dr. Rauch received the party with great gladness, and greatly increased their means of relieving the wounded.

A Miracle of Camp Cooking

Was wrought by Dr. Vanderkieft, who had charge of that department under Dr. Rauch. An incredibly short space of time availed him to have nice soup, good coffee, bread and beef ready and served to seven thousand men, wounded and well. A whole

row of camp-kettles for coffee, and another for soup, with contrabands to run them, supplied the delegates and others as fast as they could make distribution, until the whole multitude was satisfied. The jams and jellies and lemons of the Commission also were made up with sugar and water into a delicious, healthy, and nutritious beverage, and given to every man as he was brought in from Bull Run.

Whilst this was going on, the roar of cannon broke upon them, announcing the battle of Fairfax Court House. A night of alarms and toil, without sleep, ended, morning brought the wounded of the evening's battle, followed by our own retreating forces; and by the afternoon we had aided in removing the last of the sufferers onward to Alexandria and Washington, thirty-five hundred in all. Just in time, for as the last of them left, the torch was applied to the forage yet unmoved, and an hour afterwards the enemy were on the ground, but our brave martyrs were all safe.

MARYLAND INVASION.

Immediately after the battle of South Mountain, several of our delegates left Washington with four ambulances loaded with stores and medicines, and arrived at Middletown, Boonsboro', and Antietam in advance of any other stores, and were enabled to afford most essential aid to the surgeons and wounded heroes, at a time when the destitution was almost entire, and the calls for aid overwhelming. At the same time, delegates were sent from Philadelphia and Baltimore, by way of Frederick, and a day or two after, more from Philadelphia, by way of Hagerstown, until there were over seventy Christian men at work upon these battle-fields, and among the hospitals.

Some of them were at the Stone Bridge, near Gen. McClellan's headquarters, and worked all day during the battle of Antietam, under the observation of the commander, the shells often passing over the place, far beyond them, and others were in all the field hospitals during that terrible day, doing whatever good sense, sympathy, and Christian love could suggest; dressing wounds; giving nourishment and stimulants to sustain the men till the surgeons could attend them; bathing them, taking their last messages and tokens of love, and praying by the dying, and

pointing to Jesus. Their exertions and labors were commended by Gen. McClellan himself on the field, and by the surgeons who welcomed their aid.

After the battles, they sought out the wounded, aided in bringing them in, and in many cases, buried the dead with their own hands.

A large number of them remained till the wounded were all cared for, and those able to endure it were removed to the hospitals in other places.

Some of them paid particular attention to the Corn Exchange Regiment, of Philadelphia, and were the means of great comfort to friends, by finding the bodies of the dead, and bringing home some mementoes from them; one delegate returning with articles thus taken from the bodies of loved ones. The Corn Exchange gave votes of thanks for these services, and a generous contribution to the Commission.

The wounded at Frederick were also materially aided and comforted by some of these delegates, who found great need of their stores and services in that city of hospitals.

In the confusion caused by this invasion, and the great demand for transportation, it was difficult to forward our stores from Frederick. In this we were most efficiently aided by Mr. Gideon Bantz of that city, who acted as our agent, received and transmitted our stores, overcoming all obstacles in his zeal for the cause, and in every way in his power giving facilities to our delegates.

After the battles, all those who were wounded so severely as to be unable to bear removal to a distance were gathered together at Smoketown, and one of our delegates, who has been in our service ever since May last, and who is eminently qualified by nature and grace for the work, Rev. Mr. Sloane, remained with them for three months, doing a great work in consoling the wounded and in leading them to the great Physician. When he left, the surgeon in charge, a devout Catholic, gave him a letter, which is below. Soon after he received a letter from the surgeon and from one of the soldiers, calling him back; extracts from which we give. Mr. Sloane returned, and is now there, reaping the fruits of his long and self-denying labors.

Temporal Relief and Comfort. Opening the Way for Spiritual Instruction.

Rev. Mr. Torrence says: "After the battle of South Mountain, I found over thirty in barns, sheds, &c., without any comfort, medicine, or clothing, or any attention except such as was given by a few of their comrades, in one barn nine rebels and three Union men lying on the floor.

"After doing all we could, we read the fourteenth chapter of John and talked ten minutes, prayed; and then to hear the poor fellows pray, who before had been ashamed to pray, was very touching. Once led in the way, they continued of their own accord, and we left them comfortable and comforted by the Comforter, proved to those who ask for Him."

The Faith of an Unbeliever.

Rev. G. J. Mingins says: "One day we were burying some poor fellows who had fallen in the battle of Antietam, and a soldier was helping us. He told us how he had passed through the fierce conflict unharmed; 'for which,' said he, 'I thank God.' 'Thank the rebels for being such bad marksmen,' said a man near us. The soldier, looking him in the face, said: 'I ain't no Christian, God knows. After what we passed through I ought to be a better man. You may think as you like; I think God saved me, not the rebels' bad shooting.' Here was ground to work upon."

Soldiers' Gratitude.

One day when visiting the field hospitals of Antietam, we met a drummer-boy who was suffering from dysentery. Bravely had the little fellow passed through the wars with McClellan. Disease had seized upon his tender frame, and he was weak and sick and sad. He was from Massachusetts; had followed his father to the wars. His father had fallen, and he was alone. We took him to our ambulance, gave him some blackberry cordial, which had been sent from his native State through the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston. We told him this. Looking up in our face, while the tears streamed down his own, he said: "Maybe, sir, mother made this; she was always good. Anyhow, God bless you and them who sent it. Good-by, sir." From the general to the drummer-boy all appreciate the good accomplished by the Commission.

Songs in the Night.

Rev. Mr. Beatty of Philadelphia says: "After laboring all day among the wounded at Antietam amid the roar of cannon, with shells above and around us, about eleven o'clock at night I lay down on the ground, completely exhausted, in the midst of acres of wounded, to get some rest. I had just fallen asleep when I was aroused by the request to visit a dying soldier who desired to see me. I went, and found him lying in a wagon, evidently near his end, and desiring to know the way to Christ. As briefly as I could I spoke of Jesus, his death, his love, and then raised my voice in prayer. As soon as the sound of prayer went out upon the night air over those thousands of wounded men, every moan and groan was hushed, and amidst the most profound and solemn silence I prayed for that soul soon to meet the Judge, and for all who were near us. After prayer a lady sang most sweetly the words:

"In the Christian's home of glory,
There remains a land of rest,
There my Savior's gone before me,
To fulfil my soul's request.

CHORUS.

There is a rest for the weary,
There is a rest for the weary,
There is a rest for the weary,
There is a rest for you,
On the other side of Jordan,
In the sweet fields of Eden,
Where the tree of life is blooming,
There is rest for you."

And then Mrs. Harris stooped down and kissed him. We left him, and early in the morning, as we visited him, we found a kind friend just closing his eyes, his spirit having gone,—may we not hope to forever behold the Savior whom he so desired to know."

An incident showing the *connection between home and this work*, is worthy of mention.

A delegation was about to leave Philadelphia for Antietam, and Mr. P. B. Simmons commended the members to God in prayer, and asked that they might be blessed in their labors and made a comfort to the soldiers and their friends. He had a son in the army, but did not then know he was hurt. The delegates went, and one of them on the battle-field found the body of Mr. Simmons's son, and had it tenderly cared for and sent home to

the mourning father. Thus God answered his prayer in a way he had not thought of.

Piteous Appeal.

W. A. Duff, Esq., of Philadelphia, writes: "The writer, with some three or four others, found in a stable and barnyard some fifteen dead and wounded lying together. Those who were yet alive, begged in the most piteous tones that we would have their wounds examined and dressed, and remove them to less exposed quarters. This was attended to as soon as possible, the delegates aiding personally in the burial of the dead and in relieving the wants of the living, and finally removing them to a place where they would be regularly cared for."

A Surgeon's Thanks.

HEADQUARTERS 118th Regt. P. V.
SHARPSBURG, Sept. 22d, 1862.

GEO. H. STUART,
Chairman Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: I take great pleasure in thanking you in behalf of the 118th Regiment P. V., for the very kind and opportune assistance the Christian Commission rendered us in the sad calamity which befell our regiment in the engagement with the enemy on the 20th inst., and most especially, in the person of Dr. C. A. Kingsbury, who was untiring in his labors, engaged night and day in operating, dressing wounds, and aiding the afflicted in a thousand ways. His presence here was most opportune and fortunate for us. Mr. Cummings, and in fact every one connected with the Commission, aided us very materially in every instance where they could make themselves useful. I deem this acknowledgment due to Dr. Kingsbury from me, for no one else can fully appreciate the amount of service rendered us.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH THOMAS,
Surgeon 118th Regt. P. V.

P.S. Col. C. M. Prevost, to whom I have just shown the above acknowledgment, joins most heartly in the indorsement of it, and he would have written also, if he had been able to do so.

JOSEPH THOMAS,
Surgeon.

GEO. H. STUART.

Another Surgeon's Testimony.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, SMOKETOWN, MD.,
November 15th, 1862.

It gives me much pleasure to testify to the eminently Christian service of the Rev. Dr. Sloane, at this hospital since the battle of Antietam. He has volunteered his services here, and his kindness and self-sacrifice, in ministering to our sick and wounded soldiers, are beyond all praise.

He has been assiduous in procuring and distributing supplies from charitable associations, thereby greatly contributing to the comfort of our patients. As a gentleman and as a Christian minister, Mr. Sloane has won golden opinions from all with whom he has associated.

F. VANDERKEIFT,
Surgeon in charge.

Public Services aid Private Efforts.

Mr. Sloane says: "At Smoketown and Hoffman's farm, where I gave my services as chaplain for three months, I found great good resulting from holding services in the tents, consisting of singing, reading the Scriptures, remarks and prayer, and sometimes only a few remarks and prayer. By this means, an interest in religious things was kept up in all the wards, and men were more easily approached personally on the great question of the soul's salvation. These meetings were generally in the evening."

Soldiers eager for the Gospel.

Mr. Sloane says: "In the main part of the barn on the Hoffman farm, were about two hundred wounded. I went up one evening after supper, and proposed holding religious services. A general expression of satisfaction and joy was heard in every part of the building. I held the meeting. All was quiet. Before, groans and complaints filled the place; now silence reigned, that each one might hear of Christ and His salvation. At the conclusion, many said, 'Come again; be sure and come every evening; that's what we want now.' After this I held a service every evening, and have reason to believe that, by the blessing of God, some were led to Christ.

"As we were bidding them good-night after service one evening, some one called to me. I went and sat down by the young man who called me. As I took his hand, he said, 'I want you to sit down by my side and talk to me of God, and being saved. Since I was brought to this barn, I have thought over how my mother used to take me and my brother and sister, and talk of those things and pray with us, and now I have determined to seek God, to be a soldier of the Cross.' I sat down on the straw by his side, saying to a soldier next to him about the same age, 'And will not you, William, make this good resolve too?' 'I will,' said he; 'I want to be a Christian; show me the way.'

"I endeavored to open the way of life to them. They seemed to seek the pearl of great price earnestly, and I trust, found it. One, after great suffering, died in peace; the other recovered, his leg having been amputated, and the day before leaving the hospital for home, told us that his life should be spent in God's service; he saw His goodness, and all his life he hoped to praise and bless His holy name.

Hymn-books are Aids.

"At the hospitals in Smoketown I supplied nearly every one, patients and nurses, with the Soldier's Hymn-book. Singing might be heard almost every evening in most of the wards; and our meetings on the Sabbath, and in the tents with the wounded during the week, the good singing made it doubly interesting. The distribution of these Hymn-books had a good effect upon the general spirits of the men; and in many cases led to serious thoughts, which resulted in conversion."

Kindness and Care open the Heart.

Mr. Sloane says: "Henry C——, of the 19th Massachusetts regiment, was brought to Hoffman's barn, wounded badly in the thigh, and having lost the use of his arms. He was about twenty years old, an only child, tenderly nurtured. I gave particular attention to him in his helplessness, fearing he might be neglected; talking with him, and giving him needed articles and books. He was very patient, and never complained, though his wound was very painful. From the first he was anxious about his soul, and desired me to remember him in my prayers. The

first intimation I had that he had obtained a hope, was an expression of joy and praise at the close of our usual evening prayer. He called Mr. R——, of Boston, and me, to his side, and expressed his confidence in God, and his desire to submit to his will, and seemed happy. Ever after that he appeared cheerful, and said he felt no fear of death. He believed Jesus was able and willing to save him. He loved the voice of prayer; and if I was delayed by any press of business beyond the usual time of evening worship, he would send his nurse to ask me to come,—sending once after eleven o'clock at night.

"The nurse was led to reflection by being sent at such an hour, on such an errand; and on this night I found him outside of the barn, weeping bitterly. He came up to me, and said: 'I never had such feelings in my life. It seems as if all my wicked life and bad acts have come up before me.' I found he had been a member of the Baptist Church at home, but in the army had wandered far away. The message of Henry had brought him to consider his ways, and to resolve to go back to his Father's house.

"When it became evident Henry could not live, I told him, as kindly as I could, that we felt he could not recover. He calmly said: 'I am safe, living or dying, in God's hands;' and wished to see his mother, for whom we had already sent. She came, was much shocked at his situation and surroundings, and said to him: 'Henry, my son, are you not sorry you entered the army, and left home, to come out and suffer all this?' Looking steadily at her, in a voice stronger than usual, he said: 'Oh mother, how can you ask me such a question as that? You know I am not sorry. I loved my country, and for her cause I came.' His mother remained constantly with him. His sufferings were great, but his confidence in the Savior never faltered.

"He had expressed to his mother the desire to be baptized; and early one Sabbath morning she sent for me. I went, and found him in great distress, though conscious, and able to reply to the questions I asked. I briefly explained the nature of the ordinance, and directed him to trust not in it, but in Christ. It was a novel sight. There on the stretcher lay that only child; by his side knelt his weeping mother. It was early. Only the sorrow-stricken mother was present at that baptismal scene. I

took the canteen that he had carried in battle, as it lay by the side of the stretcher, left by the nurse, filled with water for use in the night, and baptized him in the name of the sacred Trinity, as a sign of an inward renewal and working of the Holy Spirit.

"Henry died for his country,—first having found Jesus, the great Captain of his salvation, who had died for him."

Song on the Amputating Table.

Rev. Mr. Sloane says: "There was a young man from Massachusetts, Charles Warren, severely wounded in the leg. At first there was some hope of saving it; but mortification setting in, it became necessary to amputate it, as a last resort, and this with little hope of saving his life. A townsman was with him, and cared for him, who wished me try and awaken him to his condition, and point him to the Savior, saying: 'I know he cannot live, and it will be a great comfort to his pious mother to know he died in hope of a blessed immortality.' I had before visited him, and continued to see him, until he was led to cast himself upon the mercy of Him who is willing to save even to the uttermost. I had determined not to witness the operation, as too painful, and hopeless of good, and turned away, as they took up the stretcher to carry him to the amputating table. But what was our surprise to hear him singing, in a clear and cheerful voice, as they laid him on the amputating table, the familiar words:

'There'll be no more sorrow there;
In heaven above, where all is love,
There'll be no more sorrow there.'

"I stayed, feeling that Charlie was calm, trusting in God. The limb was taken off, and he remained in a drowsy state for twenty-four hours, and then he gently passed away. We buried him in a quiet spot, with appropriate services,—thinking of him, as we left, as in that heaven of which he so cheerfully sang."

Happy Deathbed.

Mr. Sloane says: "I shall never forget the deathbed of William Eugene C——, a young man about nineteen years of age. He was the youngest of four brothers in the army. I had visited him almost every day in his tent. While hoping to recover, his mind became interested in religious matters. One died

on the cot opposite, rejoicing in a Savior's love. This deeply impressed him, and he soon after gave his heart to the Lord, and became reconciled to whatever might be His will. He talked of going home to be with Christ; said it was no matter when or where he died. To his pious nurse he talked much of dying, and frequently asked him to pray with him. An affectionate and beloved sister was with him for a week before his death. The day he died, Sabbath, November 23d, as several of those who had become interested in him were standing around his cot, he bid all, calling each one by name, an affectionate farewell, saying he hoped to meet us all in heaven. As I stood holding his hand, he asked me to pray. During the prayer he joined with great earnestness; then wished us to sing. We sang a few verses of the hymn,

'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear.'

After this he stretched out his arms, saying, 'Take me, take me away.' I asked, 'Where shall we take you to, William?' He said, 'O take me to heaven, take me to heaven to my Savior.' Soon after, calmly and peacefully, he went to his Savior.

BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

In anticipation of a battle, special stores had been packed in boxes and barrels and forwarded from headquarters in Philadelphia to the rooms in Washington, as a reserve supply to be sent on to the battle-field; and other stores selected and packed in trunks for the delegates to take with them for instant use.

Before the battle, Rev. J. M. Barnett, a delegate with a quantity of stores, went on to Falmouth, and was there when the battle was fought, and aided in bringing the wounded across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg to Falmouth.

Soon after, Rev. Mr. Read, as general superintendent for the Commission, with a delegation, reported himself and party at Falmouth to Dr. Letterman, Medical Director of the army, who assigned them the grateful duty of receiving and feeding the thousands of wounded at Falmouth station, as they were transferred from ambulances to the cars; and at Acquia Creek (in connection with the Sanitary Commission), where they were removed from the cars to the boats.

A portion of our delegates were assigned to this specific work (which continued nine days), while others were directed by Mr. Read to visit all the various hospitals, to aid surgeons and chaplains, distribute supplies in their possession, and minister in every way to the temporal and spiritual necessities of the patient suffering heroes.

Ten thousand Testaments and hymn-books, and other reading matter in proportion, were distributed. Numerous letters for the dying were written, burial services performed, meetings for prayer were often held, personal appeals made. All which work was most gratefully received without a single exception. On one occasion, after a meeting had been held in a dimly lighted railroad car filled with prostrate wounded soldiers, every man expressed his determination, by God's help, to be a Christian. What a precious hour!

At Washington, also, at the Sixth Street wharf, the wounded were received and fed by our delegates with the kind and cordial assistance of Captain Robinson, the Quartermaster in charge. Delegates also served as nurses upon the boats between Acquia Creek and Washington.

None can compute the value of such a work as this. It was valuable to and highly appreciated by the Government. It prolonged many a precious life; it received the "God bless you!" of many an exhausted, shivering sufferer, and the heartfelt thanks, many times expressed, of anxious friends and kindred. Ought it not to receive the sympathy and aid of all loyal Christian hearts?

The Work Pays.

Rev. George B. Buzelle, of Bangor, Maine, writes from Washington, December 27th:

"Soon the wounded began to arrive, and we found work. The poor fellows were hungry, thirsty, wanting attention, everything. To this work we gave our time and strength. We soon had our operations reduced to something like system, so that the wounded who were coming in by thousands might receive food, warm drinks, stimulants, as the case might be, or words of sympathy and direction to Christ, as far as our means would extend."

"In a few days we went to Falmouth. Here we fed the men as they arrived from the field, and removed them from the ambulances to the cars. The delay of the coming of the cars, involving the exposure of the men for hours in the ambulances or on the open platform, with scanty clothing, faint from loss of blood or lack of proper nourishment, all this gave a fearful interest and importance to the work of our delegates at Falmouth. To assist in moving the men, make their position comfortable with hay or blankets, give them nourishment, if the wound be in the mouth, something soft, and do a thousand things which one does almost without thinking,—this was in part our work during those fearful days.

"The work pays. 'God bless you!' 'How kind you are!' from the wounded, are better than fat salaries, poor as I am.

"I like our organization. I know of no other which does the same work. It comes into immediate contact with the soldier, and helps him individually, and he feels that there is some heart in the work."

Work on Steamboats.

Rev. F. N. Peloubet, of Oakburn, Mass., writes:

"Washington, D. C., December 27th, 1862.

"The first two days after Brother Cushing and myself reached here, we were busy with the wounded on the steamboats coming from Acquia Creek, giving them soft bread and apple-sauce, and helping them to the ambulances.

"Thursday morning, as we were by the boats, some one came to us and said, that on one of the boats was a man who had eaten nothing for three days. With bread in our hands, and brandy and wine in our canteens, and hymn-books in the pocket, we crossed over two steamboats to one where nothing had been eaten for twenty-four hours. They had been out in the cold all night,—had lain four hours at Acquia Creek on the cars in the cold, and now, waiting hours before they could be taken from the boat's deck (3000 wounded had come in that night), they were as patient as if Job had been the father of every one. But they were glad for something to eat, and of the hot coffee which came along soon.

"One man laughed as he took his bread. 'What are you laughing at?' asked another.

"'Who wouldn't laugh to see a piece of bread?'

"'This looks like home,'—'This reminds me of home,' was the expression of some.

"The regular Government boats are nicely fitted up, and have all the needful arrangements for the comfortable transportation of the wounded. But the other boats used for this purpose have neither food nor medicines, and a weary time would they have had but for the Christian Commission. At the chaplain's request, we held services, and talked individually as we could. One remarked, as we were leaving, 'I shall never forget that fur cap (Cushing's) wherever I meet it.' 'Nor I,' 'Nor I,' was the echo; my own less *distingue* chapeau getting but a dimmer fame."

Rev. J. H. Seaver, of Salem, Mass., writes from Washington, of the wounded at Fredericksburg, whom he found on the boats as they came up: "Many of these men were destitute of food and clothing. Any heart would have been touched at seeing those brave men stretching out their hands and craving a piece of soft bread; some of them seemed as thankful for it and made as much of it as if it had been a rich feast. Thus all the time since my arrival have I been on board of these steamboats, giving them food to eat and water to drink, and helping them as I could. There is not much opportunity for them to read while lying in such crowds, you would say, but to-day, after having cared for their bodily wants, I took a few tracts and offered them to the wounded men; their hands were soon stretched out for them, and whilst giving them out, I spoke to the wounded about the Savior, who was wounded for them. They need and wish religious reading. One said he had not heard a prayer for a year."

Seventy-five Regiments supplied by One Man.

(Extract from a letter of B. F. Bradbury, Esq., Bangor, Maine.)

Speaking of Falmouth,—

"My chief work was in visiting various regiments, and bestowing nice articles of diet, clothing, &c., for the sick in the hospitals; and in cases where there was no faithful chaplain, we

almost always read the Scriptures, sang and prayed, and said a few words to them. There are but few chaplains in the army, and this fact makes this kind of labor more essential. In this labor, we were always kindly received, and frequently expressions of deep gratitude were heard from the suffering ones.

"In the work of distributing reading matter among the men, we met with universal success. They are hungry for *good reading*. There seemed to be no end to the call for papers and hymn-books, prepared expressly for the soldiers, and the Testaments, &c. Everywhere they *rushed* to get them, and no one need doubt the good that has been done by them. I supplied about seventy-five different regiments with reading of this kind. We would start with an army wagon, two horses, in the morning, and sometimes we did not get back to our tent till after dark. If the friends of our soldiers could see the eagerness with which our men read religious books and papers, and could know how interested they are when you speak to them of Jesus, how ready, in many cases, they are to be led to the Savior, I think they would not relax their efforts for them.

"The Commission is doing a noble work, and we ought to understand that what we do must be done quickly."

Early Impressions Revived.

There was a man wounded at the first day's fight at Shiloh. He lay all Sunday night in a tent held by the rebels, on the ground, in the mud, uncared for. During that long and terrible night, amid the rain and the roar of artillery, there came vividly back to him, the text and all the argument of a sermon he had heard twenty years before. The next day when our troops succeeded, he was rescued, cared for, and taken to St. Louis, where he was found and cared for by the members of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Holy Spirit sent home the impressions of that night, and that seed, twenty years buried, sprang up and brought forth fruit in his conversion. He lived six weeks to give testimony to God's goodness, and died in joy and hope, his last words being, "My God—my country—my mother!"

A Good and Grateful Chaplain.

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE 8TH MICHIGAN INFANTRY,
"FALMOUTH, VIRGINIA, January 17th, 1863.

"TO THE AGENCY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION:

"DEAR SIR: Permit me, in the name of the sick of the 8th Regiment Michigan Infantry, to tender their sincere thanks, for the very acceptable favor you presented them through me the other day, and in thanking the Commission you represent, I would confess the evidence of an overruling Providence, in both your operation and my own, for as a Christian people, nothing offers me so much satisfaction as the evidence that God approves. When I entered your tent, I was ignorant of the real design and extent of your Commission, and only retold the tale of my necessities, as a relief to the fulness of my heart, supposing that your Commission was organized for particular regiments. I did not expect a favor, when in the catholic spirit of a patriot Christian, you informed me that you were prepared and willing to relieve us. My wants lay in the following case.

"We had a large number of men convalescent and suffering of want of appetite, and were wasting away before the 'hardtack and bean soup of the army fare,' but receiving at your hands some soft bread, soft crackers, and sweet butter, I mounted my horse, and galloped to my camp. I succeeded in getting to the hospital tent, just as the nurse entered with the bean soup for dinner, and before which many of the pale faces turned paler, but no sooner did they behold the palatable food I had, than every countenance lighted up with such an unutterable look of gratitude, that it must really be seen by any one to be realized. The next day I spread the crackers with butter, and then added a third layer of apple-butter, from the can you gave me, which was received with an equal amount of gratitude by all. I availed myself of the pleasure to honor the Commission you represent, by informing the men how I obtained these things, and depend upon it, sir, the blessings and the prayers of these poor but noble men fell thickly upon you; in the characteristic manner of the soldier, and as no other man can utter the word, one of them exclaimed, 'Bully for such a chaplain as you.' My dear sir, could but the ladies and kind friends who sustain you come and

witness a few of these cases, they would really believe that no one could bestow even a cup of cold water, but would receive their reward. May the blessings of heaven be upon you, and your truly Christian labors.

"G. TAYLOR,
"Chaplain 8th Michigan Regiment."

A Singular Surprise.

As we were placing men in the cars for Acquia Creek, I found one poor fellow shot through the mouth. The bullet had cut his tongue off; he could not speak. I asked him "Are you from New York?" He shook his head. "From Philadelphia?" He nodded. I placed him in the cars and did all I could for him. I took him on my arm as a mother takes her sick child, and was pouring some wine down his throat; he sprang up, made an awful noise in his throat, and pointed outside the car to a man who was passing. I went out and called the man, and who should it be but the soldier-boy's own father in search for him. His blessings upon me and upon the Christian Commission who sent me, I shall never forget.

An Arm Lost and a Savior Found.

In the field hospital, after giving each man something, just what he most needed, we talked six or eight minutes to them and prayed with them; they seemed very glad and grateful. After talking in one of these field hospitals about salvation as the great object, one of the brave fellows came up and said, pointing to his shoulder—the arm was gone,—"I lost my arm, but I am not sorry. If I had not lost my arm I might have lost my soul. I lost an arm, but I have found a Savior, and I can say it is better to have Jesus and one arm, than to have two arms and be as I have been before, without a Savior."

Song in Death.

A German captain had both legs off and was near death's door. I gave him a Soldier's Hymn-book. He told me he had been very wicked before he entered the army. Under the influence of a good chaplain, he had joined the church in his regiment. He said, "I am not afraid to die. I would infinitely rather die and

go to Jesus, than live." He found a hymn he had learned to sing, and began singing it in a clear, sweet voice. Gradually his voice died away as if melting into air, and I looked and he was dead.

Twofold Testimony of the Bravery inspired by True Religion.

At one of these regimental hospitals, I witnessed a wonderful scene in the death of a soldier. His captain stood at his side. The dying man had a wife and two children. He spoke calmly and joyously of death; said he should soon be with Jesus. His wife and children he was not afraid to leave. God had said he would be the father of the fatherless and the husband of the widow; he could trust them to God. He was mortifying, and as I looked upon him he seemed to me like pearl, one of the pearls of the Savior's crown, and I thought a pearl mortifying.

His captain and all were deeply moved; tears flowed freely. The captain said, "Ah, he is a true Christian. True religion makes a man a hero. I am not one, but true religion makes a man a hero. Hypocrites are cowards. This man is an example of true religion." The dying man rose up and said, "Captain, did I ever shrink from duty?" "Never," said the captain, "never," and he fell back and died.

ANNAPOLIS AGENCY.

Early in our work, Rev. H. C. Henries, Chaplain of the United States General Hospital at Annapolis, began to render efficient service to the Commission as its agent. Through his hands, nearly all the publications and stores sent by us for the hospitals in Annapolis, and Parole Camp near by, have passed, and he has counselled and directed our delegates sent there to work.

Governor Bradford and Judge Brewer have also kindly given us the benefit of their wisdom, influence, and hospitality. To them, and their excellent wives and daughters, the suffering soldiers and our bleeding country are indebted for most timely and excellent service.

The Commission, in turn, has given Chaplain Henries much and valuable aid by its delegates, in his great hospital, with its room for three thousand men, and by reading-matter for distribu-

tion. A great and good work has been done there. Deep and abiding religious interest has been manifested. Daily religious services, largely attended, have been kept up much of the time. Many wanderers have been reclaimed, believers encouraged, and sinners converted to God. A single incident from the many that might be given, must suffice as an illustration of the good done.

Will You Go?

Passing through the wards, according to daily custom, to talk, pray, and give out papers and tracts, in one of them a cot was found vacant, upon which a soldier had long lain. He was so far convalescent as to be abroad for exercise, air, and sunlight. Upon the clean white counterpane, a single-leaf tract was placed, to remind him that he was remembered. It was the hymn commencing,

"We are travelling home to heaven above,
Will you go?"

Next day, in the crowded meeting, in the large library and reading-room, after prayer, singing, and addresses by Chaplain Henries and Rev. Dr. Patterson, delegate of the Commission, the question was asked, whether any in the assembly desired to confess Christ before their fellow-soldiers, and the opportunity given for those who did, to rise and speak. Slowly a tall military figure rose up, and held forth a tract to the view. Distinctly, in humble, touching tones, he said:

"I have never confessed my Savior. I am not ashamed of Jesus. I am ashamed of myself, that I have been so long ashamed of Him. I desire now to confess Him before all the world. He is very precious to me. This little tract was the means of turning me to Him. I found it on my cot, and read it. It said, 'We are travelling home to heaven above, will you go?' And I said, Yes, I will. So I sat down and wrote upon it, Yes, by the grace of God, I will, and signed my name. And now I desire to confess Christ before all the world, and hope I am travelling home to heaven above. Pray for me, that I may serve my Savior, and stand up for Him here, and may at last have a home with Him in heaven above."

Rev. Mr. Henries writes under date January 1, 1863: "Our Heavenly Father God is with us, and we are constantly witnessing His power in the salvation of souls. Oh, what a field white unto the harvest! How every effort ought to be made to redeem this great multitude unto the Lord.

"I send a letter from one of our converts, about thirty-five years of age, who had never given any attention to religion till about the time of the date of the letter. He is warm in his new love, and has taken part in all our meetings and is an active and useful member, and prays in his ward with the sick. This is a fair sample of all who have given their hearts to Christ. They become workers in the vineyard of the Master."

U. S. General Hospital,
Annapolis, Maryland, November 30th, 1862.

Rev. Mr. Henries.

Sir: I desire, as an intelligent being, to give my life, my heart, and my all to God, and to become one of the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus.

For this end I desire an interest in your prayers and of all the people of God, and as soon as you shall deem proper, I desire to become a member of the Christian Association of this hospital, that I may have a protection from the temptations of the world and the Devil, and that I may have piety promoted in my heart.

Yours in Christ,

Otis B. Fuller,
Warden Ward 8, Sect. 2.

CAMP PAROLE, NEAR ANNAPOLIS.

At some time during the progress of the Peninsular campaign, and whilst the armies under General Banks and General Fremont were marching and fighting in the Valley of Virginia, opposed by "Stonewall" Jackson, the practice of releasing prisoners upon their parole came into use extensively by the rebel chieftains. Many were taken and paroled by the partisan General John Morgan in the West, by "Stonewall" Jackson in the Valley, and some by the generals before Richmond.

A camp for these paroled soldiers of our own army was established near Annapolis first, and soon after another near Alex-

andria. That near Annapolis very soon numbered five or six thousand, and shortly swelled to sixteen thousand.

The men came in from the Valley and from the West stripped of everything, worn and weary; and from Richmond, covered with rags, filth, and vermin, destitute, dejected, and miserable. The Government provided tents, rations, and an officer to command. But they needed clothing, sympathy, reading-matter, and hospital comforts.

This was the state of things when, in response to the earnest appeal of Rev. H. C. Henries, Chaplain of the United States General Hospital at Annapolis, the Christian Commission sent stores, reading-matter, and delegates to them.

There was no chaplain. Many of them had lost their "descriptive lists," and could neither draw their pay or procure clothing. They were in idleness, because their parole pledged them to do nothing for our Government until exchanged. Idleness bred vice, drinking, and gambling. Riot followed in the train, and authority was set at nought.

These delegates were succeeded by others, amongst whom were Rev. Mr. Rockwood, of the American Tract Society, Mr. S. H. Thompson, Hunter Corbett, and many others. A chapel tent holding one hundred and seventy-five persons was furnished by the officer in command, in which the daily evening prayer-meeting was held, whilst the daily preaching was in the open air, often to a thousand or fifteen hundred persons.

The fruits of their work have cheered them on. A vast amount of relief has been bestowed and suffering saved, many letters written for the soldiers to their friends, many descriptive lists obtained for them to enable them to get their pay, the character and condition of the camp improved, interest in eternal things awakened, and many men led to repent and fly to the Savior.

A Glorious Day.

Rev. A. Read writes at the close of his first Sabbath:

"A glorious day! I spent the morning among the very sick in the hospitals, distributing, reading, addressing men personally and collectively, and praying with them. In the afternoon I preached under the trees in the College grounds (St. John's Col-

lege Hospital) at half past one, and at half past three in the yard, and at half past four in Parole Camp. All good meetings, especially the one at Parole Camp. Five hundred men gathered around the carriage. We distributed Testaments and hymn-books, and they listened with profound attention and interest to the sermon, which was a running commentary on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. At the close, we took a vote as to whether they would attend a like service next day at the same hour. Four or five hundred hands were up instantly.

"On Monday I went and preached of the Great Physician. A crowd of eager listeners again, a number of whom told me they would henceforth, by God's grace, live for heaven.

"Oh, how eagerly they listened! How greedily they seized the Testaments, how anxiously they waited upon the ministrations! Could you have seen but this one, one of many such instances of the good being done, I know you would love still more and aid still more the Christian Commission.

"There is no exaggeration in the accounts of their desire for reading-matter. I never witnessed such greedy avidity as theirs for Testaments and hymn-books. Many inquiries for German books were necessarily unsatisfied, as we had none. I promised they should have them."

Mr. Corbett gives an interesting fact in relation to

A Man who Missed the Cars.

"He had secured his discharge and started for home, but missed the cars, and went back to the camp and into the prayer-meeting. By and by he rose up and stated these facts, and went on to say: 'Since I came into this meeting I have been thinking that the Lord had sent me back to seek an interest in the Savior, and that if I should not do it I should miss the cars for heaven.' He was a fine, noble, intelligent-looking young man, and deeply in earnest. He begged us to pray for him.

"Next morning he called at the tent for instruction, and gave evidence that he had indeed given himself up to Jesus, and found an interest in Him."

A Joyous Convert.

"Another man rose in the prayer-meeting one evening in great agony, and begged the prayers of all present. 'Brethren, do pray for me; I am a great sinner; I must have Christ or be lost!'

"Two nights after, he rose and said: 'Brethren, I cannot express my joy! I have found Jesus! O that all would come to Him.'"

Riot Quelled by the Cross.

Rev. Mr. Bringhurst writes from Annapolis, Oct. 27, 1862: "Arriving at their camp, I found a scene of fearful insubordination, caused by the recklessness of a few inebriated soldiers. Several buildings had been fired, others threatened with destruction. Fiendish yells, accompanied with bitter oaths, rent the air, while six companies of the 131st New York and three of a Maryland cavalry regiment, made desperate efforts to restore order. In the midst of the confusion, I assembled about fifty men around me, and commenced singing, 'Say, brothers, will you meet us?' Hundreds replied practically, and soon I was surrounded by an immense audience. After singing, we united in prayer, and then with earnestness they listened to my brief address, consisting of the simple, though touching story of the cross of Jesus. Order was restored, perfect order; not by the sword, but by the cross, which is 'the power of God.' I was gratified to hear subsequently from the colonel in command, that a quieter night had not been experienced in the camp. There are seven thousand six hundred and sixty-two of our soldiers here. Each State is represented.

"Sunday afternoon I was furnished with a horse by Judge Brewer, of Annapolis, a gentleman who has manifested a deep interest in the support of our Government, and provided generally for the delegates of the Commission visiting Annapolis. Enveloped in a suit of India-rubber, I started through the drenching rain for the camp. My approach was hailed with pleasure, and the afternoon spent in meetings in the different tents. Oh how they prize these meetings! How willing to give up everything, that they may attend! How eagerly they listen

to those cheering words which have illuminated the dark days of so many soldiers! Rest assured, my dear friend, the 'Christian Commission' is doing a glorious work; its efforts are not fruitless.

Welcome Visit.

"That visit of the Rev. Messrs. Parvin and Mingins, a few weeks since, to this place, has been richly blessed. One man, in speaking of his love of the Gospel, alluded to these men, and said there was a Scotchman here from Pennsylvania (naming Mr. Mingins), 'whose words are still ringing in my ears.' I could not but pray that they would continue to ring, until the joyful sound rings through the courts of heaven, that another soldier has been washed in the blood of Christ.

"When Mr. Mingins talked of preaching, men smiled. We were determined to try. Myself and another Christian brother drove to the camp in an open carriage, and stopped in the centre of the encampment. Soon the soldiers lounged up to us, asking what we had to sell. 'Nothing,' we replied. 'Have you anything to give away?' they asked. Putting our hand into our satchel, we gave them a tract of Gospel Hymns. One soldier said, 'Ah, I've read these before.' We commenced singing, 'There is a fountain filled with blood.' Before we were done, a thousand men were collected around our carriage; and a more attentive audience we never addressed. After we were done preaching, we opened a parcel of books, to distribute them. The scene which followed beggars description. So anxious were the poor fellows to secure reading, that we thought they would trample each other under feet. They climbed up in front, on each side, in at the back, until we had scarcely room to act; yet were we treated with the greatest respect. Night after night we thus addressed them. One night, as we were leaving them, a soldier advanced to the carriage, saying, 'Sir, I want you to pray for me and for my comrades in arms. We need your prayers, appreciate your labors, and hope God will bless the Commission.' As we were leaving, he took hold of my hand, pressed it, then quickly passed through the crowd. He had left something in my hand. It was *a ragged one dollar bill*, very likely his all. It showed his gratitude."

Another Account.

Rev. Mr. Parvin, writing from Annapolis, Oct. 3, 1862, says: "At Annapolis and vicinity, our work for a few days past has been with the sick and wounded in the General Hospital, and the four thousand Union soldiers now at Camp Parole. The stores of clothing, cordials, fruits, &c., sent by the Christian Commission, were and are of inestimable value. I found, without exception, the men seemingly grateful for the visits of a Christian minister at their bedsides, and for the words of Gospel cheer and invitation spoken to them, and prayers offered in their behalf, and the little books and tracts handed to them.

"The chaplain in charge, Rev. Mr. Henries, does what he can, and labors faithfully; but the field is altogether too large for him, or for any one man.

"Rev. Mr. Mingins and myself drove into the Parole Camp inclosure on Wednesday afternoon last, and again on the following day about five o'clock, and were surrounded by a large crowd, curious to know what we had for sale. From our conveyance we distributed a few hundred copies of single sheets containing some twenty hymns, and explained, in a few words, our mission. We gave out the sweet Christian hymn, 'There is a fountain filled with blood;' and hundreds of voices took up the strain, and many hearts showed that they felt the power of the words, so often heard in their own churches at home. It was not long before at least a thousand men surrounded us, and most attentively listened to our addresses to them, and to our prayer for them; and then a thousand voices seemed to join in the closing doxology, 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.'

"Our stock of books and tracts was then distributed, and most eagerly received. The men cheered us. They cried out, 'God bless you! God bless you, for coming to see us!' and not a few were the warm grasps of the hand, accompanied by the tearful utterance of the words, 'Pray for us; pray for us, that we may not altogether forget the Lord, and our duty to Him.'

"As we drove out of the camp grounds, the moon then shining brightly upon the scene, we heard, from various quarters, soldiers singing our Christian hymns, in place of their camp songs."

Eagerness of the Men for Religious Reading and Instruction.

Rev. E. C. Ambler writes: "Last Lord's day morning, my wife and myself went into the camp of the paroled prisoners and distributed the very last tracts in our possession. I tell you it would have done your soul good to have seen how eagerly they received the tracts and papers, and to have heard the expressions of thankfulness for them.

"I made an appointment to preach to them at 6 P.M., and preached from 'No man careth for my soul.' There were present about fifteen hundred in all; some noble, healthy-looking officers and men, some very pale and sickly, worn out by disease and hard labor; some wounded and scarcely able to move, having been in prison nearly a year in Richmond and other places. After services were over, they flocked around us and thanked me for coming to preach to them, and urged me to make an appointment to preach on a week-day, saying they had no duty to perform and could attend a meeting one day as well as another. I told them I would do so."

Religious Interest.

Mr. Jones says: "While he was there they held an open-air prayer-meeting from day to day. The interest was such that from five to eight hundred were in attendance. All they had to do was to open the meeting, then say, 'Now, boys, pray,' and four or five perhaps at once would be ready to begin.

"In the hospital tent a young man, dying, sent for Mr. Jones. He told him he had been very wicked; his parents were Christians; he could not die so. Said he, 'I have read and prayed a great deal. The great, great question is, what shall I do to be saved? I cannot get hold of it.' 'All you have to do is to *believe*. Just trust all to Jesus.' 'Is that all?' 'Yes; can you do that?' Waiting a moment, he answered, 'Yes, I can.' Soon his confidence in Christ became very strong, and at last he said, 'Yes, if I had a thousand souls I could trust them all to Jesus,' and he sank away and died."

A Wanderer Reclaimed.

There were many such. One rose in one of the evening meetings and said: "Four years ago I gave myself to the Savior, but under temptation, basely deserted Him. I came to this meeting as hardened a sinner as ever lived, but thanks be to God, He has touched my heart. I am now determined to begin His service anew. Brethren, pray for me."

A Contrast.

Mr. Corbett describes two death-scenes, one peaceful and triumphant, the other hard and careless.

"After talking and praying with him, the dying Christian broke forth in these words: 'The Lord is my Shepherd: I have trusted Him when well; He will not forsake me in death. I will soon be home in heaven with my mother and sisters and brothers. Won't you sing for me,

"'Jerusalem, my happy home!"'

"After it was sung the words of parting came, and he passed gently away.

"The other man, dying on his cot, answered the kind inquiry about his preparation to meet God, by saying, 'I don't care what God does with me,' and so died."

CAMP CONVALESCENT, NEAR ALEXANDRIA.

Of all the special work after that of the battle-fields, none has been more sadly earnest or hopefully fruitful than that in Camp Convalescent.

Three distinct camps clustered together have gone under the one name,—Parole camp, which, like that near Annapolis, has been a great gathering-place of our own men taken and paroled by the rebels, Stragglers' camp, where stragglers from the army were retained until sent back to their regiments, and Camp Convalescent proper, where the men from various hospitals were sent as soon as they so far recovered as to admit of it, in preparation for taking their places again in the service, and where men were sent from their regiments to be discharged. At one time, twenty-two thousand men were collected in this threefold camp. Tents and rations were provided by the Government. The condition of the men, however, was such, that it received as its popular name the sobriquet of "Camp Misery," and attracted the spe-

cial attention and action of Congress. Although this singular camp was established by Government, no chaplain was appointed for it or assigned to it.

Here the Commission has been permitted to accomplish a long-continued and excellent work.

Relief and Sympathy First, and then the Gospel.

Never anywhere was relief and sympathy more welcome or necessary. The suffering was unparalleled and appalling. Despondency and despair, aided by cold, hunger, filth, vermin, and disease, settled heavily upon thousands of hearts. Appeals to the Commission were urgent, earnest, terrible. The relief afforded through our delegates, though far from complete and universal, warmed many a poor shivering soldier, fed many a convalescent whose weak appetite rejected the hearty rations of well men, cheered with hope many a sinking heart, and saved many from the grave.

For months past our delegates have been constantly there by day and by night, occupying two tents, well supplied with stores, and doing everything feasible for the relief of suffering humanity.

They have distributed wagon-loads of clothing, delicacies, and comforts for the sick; they have aided in securing hundreds of discharges for the disabled, written hundreds of letters for the helpless and the dying, buried many dead, distributed twenty thousand Testaments, hymn-books, and papers, and a million pages of tracts, opening and sustaining a daily prayer-meeting, and holding preaching services as frequently as opportunity offered.

And this good work still goes on, every facility being afforded by the authorities. A chapel-tent, capable of holding more than four hundred persons, has been purchased by the Commission, and earnest men "located" in the camps, and thorough arrangements made for a systematic and constant supply of stores.

Daily Work.

C. R. Treat, of Boston, writes January 2d, 1863:

"Our daily programme is as follows: Immediately after breakfast a prayer-meeting, to which professing Christians are invited, continuing one hour. Then, with an assortment of books, tracts, and supplies, we start to visit the men in the tents. The plan is to give the men writing paper, a comb, or some little articles they

need; then tracts and other reading, and Testaments when needed, following up these gifts with more or less extended conversation on religious subjects. Working thus till sundown, we take supper, and after a short rest we go to the prayer-meeting or hospitals, closing the day.

"All seem to be thirsting for the water of life. They hear what is said to them, and seem quite disposed to consider at once the question of their souls' salvation. It is an opportunity for doing good seldom met with."

The Great Need.

Mr. Kimball, son of James W. Kimball, of Boston, writes from this camp, December, 1862:

"After all, the great need is in spiritual matters. Here the destitution is absolute, nine thousand odd men with neither church, chaplain, or any one to care for their souls, except the Christian Commission. All receive reading matter with avidity, many very bad men reading a Testament in preference to doing nothing. We have two large tents and a small one from Government. The Commission have bought a tent, which will cost four hundred dollars, for religious services. The men come to our daily morning prayer-meetings, and to our evening meetings, and won't give us a chance to close for two hours."

Rev. J. M. Barnett writes under date, Hillside, Pa., January 15th, 1863:

"Brother Ellis (delegate of the Commission from Cincinnati, Ohio) and myself visited from tent to tent all day long, day after day, supplying, as far as we could, warm underclothing, writing materials, and reading matter, accompanying our gifts with warm assurances of home sympathy, followed by earnest words for salvation.

"The smaller tents sheltered four or five, the larger twelve to sixteen. There was no end to the need of underclothing, socks, &c.

"Many of our interviews were touching and tender. At first some were indifferent, some playing cards; but indifference and card-playing soon gave way, and the despondent, careless countenance kindled with hope, interest, and life. Warm, earnest, often tearful thanks were expressed, and God's blessing asked upon the friends who had sent the good gifts, and upon the Christian Commission.

The Testament. The Soldiers' Estimate.

"Some had Testaments which they had carried through all the war, and the frequent expression from them was, 'I would not part with mine on any consideration.' Others had lost theirs in battles or retreats, but were eager to be again supplied.

Three Men were Converted by the Daily Reading

"Of the Testament in their tent. The tent sheltered five. Two of them were faithful Christians, and read the Testament every day for the benefit of all. And God blessed it to the salvation of their three fellow-soldiers.

A Hundred Hands stretched out for Reading Matter.

"In one street of the camp, I was asked by a soldier for a paper, and stopped to give it to him, when, in a moment, a hundred others gathered around, stretching out their hands and eagerly saying, 'Give me a paper!' 'Give me one!' 'Give me one, too!' My stock was quickly exhausted, and even after I told them that they were all gone, they still followed, beseeching me for something to read.

The Camp Moved and Improved.

The authorities have moved the camp to better ground, and are erecting comfortable board barracks for the men, and in every way improving the condition of the men and the camp.

They also have proposed to erect for the Christian Commission

A Board Chapel,

provided the Commission will furnish the boards, and will also secure the permanent services of a minister, to be known as the Chaplain of the Camp, with such assistants as he may need from time to time. The authorities propose to allow rations to the chaplain, but cannot secure pay for his services of the Government, as there is no law authorizing the appointment of chaplains for camps of this kind.

The Commission have voted to accede to these propositions, authorized Mr. Miller, of Washington, to furnish the lumber for the chapel, and have already secured the services of a tried, excellent, and efficient minister for the post.

Thank God, there is therefore a brighter future in prospect for Camp Convalescent.

POINT LOOKOUT.

A corps of delegates were sent by appointment of Surgeon-General Hammond, four in all, to Point Lookout, under Mr. G. L. Shearer, who reports as follows:

The Place.

This is the most southern part of Maryland. It is a sandy peninsula, separating the waters of the Chesapeake and Potomac, just before the latter is lost in the bay. Previous to the war it was a favorite watering-place for Dixie; but six months ago it became Hammond General Hospital.

In the beginning of December, this contained nine hundred patients. To these were added eleven hundred from Fredericksburg, making two thousand of our brave but suffering soldiers. In this bleak spot, there are no visits from mothers, wives, or sisters; nor can the various Aid Committees, so efficient elsewhere, distribute their comforts. Their report came to the Christian Commission. They immediately sent forward four young men, theological students, and a large quantity of supplies.

Delegates appointed Medical Cadets.

The Surgeon in charge, Dr. Wagner, received them very cordially, provided quarters, furnished food, and in order to further facilitate their labors, appointed them "Acting Medical Cadets." Thus assisted and directed, they labored, dressing wounds and relieving destitution, speaking kind words, and writing for them to loved ones at home; in short doing all in their power to increase the comfort of the soldiers. I need hardly say that many were made glad. Warm underclothing especially was very gratefully received. Their knapsacks had been left in camp previous to the battle; hence all they brought with them was what they had worn in the fight.

The hospital was able to supply many hundreds; but the sudden increase of wounded more than doubled its number of patients, and its capacity was thus temporarily overtaxed. These cases were sought out and their wants satisfied.

Act as Christian Cadets.

But the Christian Commission also cares for the souls of men.

The chaplain was absent on a furlough. A Catholic priest is stationed there; he was at his post and was not idle. The visit of the Commission was opportune. Among the supplies was a large quantity of American Messengers, Banners, tracts, and religious reading from nearly every Evangelical denomination, besides between three and four hundred Testaments and Psalms. How welcome was this *Word of life!* Their distribution was usually accompanied with a few earnest words from the donor, and an apology from the soldier for being without God's word. "I brought one with me," they say, "but I left it in my knapsack." They seem to regard the Word as a necessary part of their equipment. Not a few had taken them from their knapsacks and carried them through the fight.

A Bible Prized for Itself and for its Giver.

A soldier severely wounded was sitting on his bed, and a Bible lay beside him. "Friend," said one of the Commission, "I am glad to see you have a Bible; where did you get it?" "I brought it with me from Erie County, Pennsylvania," was the reply; and continuing, he said, "my sister gave it me." "Ah! then you carry it because you love your sister?" "Yes, but, I love to read it because it is God's word," said he. The hearts of those strangers were knit together; pleasant words were exchanged, and both "thanked God and took courage," from that interview.

Religious Meetings.

These things fully occupied the daytime; in the evenings, meetings were held in the chapel. A passage of Scripture was explained; songs of praise and fervent prayers ascended; the soldiers frequently leading in prayer, to the edification of the assembly. The services were solemn and impressive; men renewed their vows to God; thoughtless souls were aroused, some were conversed with, who were seeking the Lord with tears, and the faith of many was strengthened. A semi-weekly prayer-meeting was established and left under the charge of C. C. Foster, an active Christian man. Numbers were asking the way of salvation. There were two thousand patients, and the hospital had been six months in existence, yet they had never had a prayer-meeting there before. The surgeons were very kind and cordial.

As the delegates were about to leave, and in expectation of the steamboat, the surgeons, in allusion to the irregularity and uncertainty of its arrival, said they hoped "there would be no boat for a month, so they would have to stay."

GENERAL WORK.

We have now given a report of our special work as we could; but no report can give a full idea of its interest or importance.

Our general work has been to supply religious services, aiding chaplains, where there were any, and preaching to multitudes of soldiers who had no chaplains or means of religious instruction, except what we provided; supplying reading matter for the armies and for hospitals, regimental and general; distributing bodily comforts, and bringing home influences to the camp. We have had delegates in all our great armies, who have been welcomed by the chaplains and by the men. The generals and officers have given them free access, and encouraged them in their work. They have found everywhere great eagerness to obtain religious reading, great desire to hear the preached word, and great willingness to converse on the subject of religion. Many, many will rise up that last day, to call them blessed.

They have gone to the men, held under the stern discipline of war, and treated as parts of a great machine; taken them by the hand as brethren, and revived the sympathies and affections of their souls; shown them that many hearts cared for them at home, and above all, that there was One who could sympathize in all their trials.

We can testify that our whole army is prepared in an unusual degree to receive the Gospel. And what we have done is only the beginning of a mighty work, to fully accomplish which will call for all the resources of our churches.

We give some of the facts and incidents which illustrate our general work.

Field Work and Field Wants.

When the Commission first met in Washington, they spent a day in the camps. Just as the sun was setting behind the hills west of Manassas, they drove out to Minor's Hill, where were stationed several regiments in a most beautiful encampment. As night was coming on, they did not intend to stop, lest they

should fail of getting into Washington before the guard was set; but one of their number threw out a few tracts, and instantly, as if by magic, the men began to appear from all quarters, rushing towards the omnibus with outstretched hands. They stopped, and in a few moments were surrounded by from one thousand to fifteen hundred men, all asking for reading matter. They gave all they had; and then Mr. Stuart and Dr. Neill made them short addresses, and Mr. Stuart, from the top of the omnibus, proposed a prayer. Every cap was off in an instant, and they stood in quiet, as the prayer was offered. Their good-by was said, and the carriage started off at a rapid rate; but the men pursued, some of them nearly half a mile, with hands reaching out for tracts.

Praying in a Bomb-proof, or going Down to get Up.

The members of the Commission visited Fort Albany, then occupied by the 14th Massachusetts. As they were passing around the fort, one of the soldiers led them to a square hole, and said: "Look here." "What is that?" "It's the bomb-proof, where we hold our daily prayer-meetings, down twelve feet under ground." "Do any come?" "Yes, sixty or more." "Do you find Christ?" "Yes," said he, "we find Him here as well as at home." "So you go down, to get up to Jesus."

The Commission returned to Washington, convinced that their work was welcome to the army. Thus began the work of the Christian Commission.

Two delegates, with publications and stores, were despatched with

General Banks's Expedition.

Welcomed by the General himself, and gladly received by the good chaplains of his expedition, who by this means may obtain books, tracts, and papers for use, we may hope to hear good news in due time from the Crescent City and the Gulf Department, through them.

Indeed, already intelligence has reached us from one of the chaplains, of deep and extensive religious interest awakened amongst the men of several regiments, during the voyage. Overtaken by a great storm, they were in awful peril. Men who had scoffed before, threw themselves upon the necks of those whose praying they had ridiculed, and besought them to pray for them.

Officers who went below with their men, to talk and pray with them, won their hearts as they never otherwise could have done it; and, best of all, as the storm ceased, the religious interest increased. Five meetings were held on the Sabbath-day on one transport, and many were hopefully converted before reaching New Orleans.

From the Army of the Potomac.

Rev. F. N. Peloubet writes under date Oakham, Mass., Jan. 14th, 1863:

"Never was there a place where the Gospel was more needed than in the army, and unfavorable as the moral atmosphere is to religion, it may reach many a soldier's heart.

"A cavalry captain told me, 'The Government thinks curry-combs of more importance than Testaments. We must carry our curry-combs whether we carry Testaments or not.'

"Once while ministering to the wants of the wounded, in the Christian order of caring for the body to reach the soul, one asked 'What is to pay?' 'Nothing,' was the answer; 'it is as free as the Gospel.' 'Ah! soldiers don't have much of that kind.' 'I hope you like the Gospel as well as you do this.' 'Yes,' he replied, 'the Gospel is good too.'"

Field Fare not the best, and Field Work not easy.

Mr. Peloubet says further: "We found that the 36th had just escaped the battle of Fredericksburg, having lain Saturday night in a ravine under the enemy's guns, and were prevented from making a charge next morning only by a change of general plans and an order to recross the river. A sleepless night and a three mile walk, carrying our baggage and bread, made us weary enough, and we could not do much except talk over matters with the chaplain and a surgeon of our acquaintance. It was a cold, blustering night, and we began to taste the discomforts of a soldier's life. We slept in tents with soldiers and officers, supped on hardtack and coffee, and took meals with the officers. The poorest in our village live in more comfort than even the officers in the field.

The first Prayer-Meeting in the Regiment. Home Sympathies and Prayers.

"Saturday morning we went into the regimental hospital, wrote

letters for the sick, conversed with them and held a prayer-meeting, the first they had enjoyed. It was sweet to be able to tell them of Jesus and of home; how at home we thought of them; that scarcely a prayer was offered in our prayer-meetings or church, at the family altar or in secret, in which the soldier was not remembered. We miss them at home, at the prayer-meeting and in the social gathering. It was sweet to tell them so, and pleasant for them to know that we loved them, thought of, and prayed for them. But a home in heaven is better, and the love of Jesus is sweeter.

Regimental Hospitals. Their Necessities.

"Regimental hospitals are not so well provided with food, medicines, or any of the little essentials of the sick-room, as are those on a larger scale. There are no places where the Christian Commission can do more than in the regimental hospital.

"We left some of our soft bread and solidified milk here, and for once at least, hardtack yielded to milk toast. In another hospital, some being unable to eat the broth, I was permitted to distribute the soft bread we had, spread with marmalade, which they relished, and were very grateful for.

Sabbath Regimental Service and Prayer-Meeting.

"Mr. Cushing and I returned to the 36th in time for the regimental service, in which we took part; then going to the tents, we talked with our own parishioners about home, and finally held a prayer-meeting, bringing in other religious men.

"One remarked, that religion in the army was like the resources of the country,—we were living on former capital. Another wanted me to urge the young not to swear; he felt the evil of profanity. Another said, that keeping religion burning in the heart in the army, was like their green wood fires, hard to get into a bright flame."

Eagerness for Papers.

B. F. Bradbury, of Bangor, Me., writes Jan. 2d, 1863:

"The intense eagerness with which the soldiers lay hold of 'The Messenger' and the little Sunday-School papers and the little books and Testaments, is perfectly wonderful. You can imagine the eagerness with which the children in the country would gather around a wagon where were apples or oranges or

candy to give away, and then perhaps you may get some idea how these men seize these beautiful and valuable presents. While I am distributing them, I try to talk to them as well as I can about Jesus and the great salvation.

"Wherever I go in the great army, I find a welcome greeting if I only carry these things. They are anxious to get those papers they have been in the habit of reading at home. I have often seen them sitting around their tents most earnestly reading them.

White Oak Church.

"In one regiment which we visited last Sabbath, we found it almost impossible to supply the demand for Testaments, but after giving so that we thought there would be at least one in a tent, we invited them to form in a ring on the side of the road, and there we had a short service. (This was at 'White Oak Church.') Many an eye was moist in that large throng, and we could not but bless God, that we had been permitted to convey to those noble men such a blessing. As we go around in this way, how often I think of the Scriptures, where seventy were sent out two by two to heal the sick and proclaim the glad tidings."

Rev. J. M. Barnett was at Falmouth when the battle was fought at Fredericksburg. After the pressure of caring for the wounded was in some measure passed, he went into the camps to do what he could for the well. He writes as follows, under date Hillside, Pa., Jan. 15th, 1863.

"I remained until December 23d, assisting the brethren of the Committee in feeding the wounded soldiers who were sent away from the station; visiting hospitals, and especially the hospital in Falmouth, where the sick and wounded of the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers were; visiting regiments, and distributing reading matter; and talking, as opportunity offered. On the Sabbath week following the battle, I preached in the morning to the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers, in a little church on the Rappahannock, within gunshot of the rebel pickets. The church is old; was used as a union church by several denominations, but is now occupied by some of our troops. The gallery still stands, but the seats and pulpit are torn out. In the afternoon I went to the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and held services in the open air. Both audiences, though the former could hardly stay in the

house for smoke, and the latter were shivering with cold, listened with earnest attention.

"The soldiers were always ready to hear, and always eager to get Testaments, when they were not already supplied, and tracts. In but three or four instances were Testaments refused, and in two of these I learned the persons could not read; and in but one case did I see a tract refused. The earnest, urgent request from chaplains and men was, 'Give us something to read; do send us reading matter.' One chaplain said: 'If possible, send us something to read,—the men are hungry for it. We have no tent to hold service in; and while we have nothing to give the men to read, our hands are tied, and usefulness hindered.'

"And thus it is all over the army. The cry comes alike from those who love Christ, and those who are strangers to Him. Often was the inquiry made, 'Have you any German books?' 'What do you want, my friend?' 'The Testament and Hymn-book,' was generally the reply. Now shall this earnest cry pass unheeded by Christians at home? Shall the soldier, who so much needs the Gospel, be allowed to suffer from this moral and spiritual hunger?

"Everywhere I was received with kindness and courtesy; and most of the time, while on the front, I boarded with the quarter-master of the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers, free of expense.

"The work of the Commission is a blessed work; and if the sad necessity continues, I shall be glad, by and by, to engage in it again, hoping that my experience may enable me to do more for our noble soldiers than I have. Meantime I will strive to do what I can at home.

"I send you copies of a letter written by a soldier in Camp Convalescent, and of one written by myself, by request of Mr. Shearer.

"May God bless you and your great work."

The Field White, the Harvest Ready.

Rev. J. P. Janeway writes from Fortress Monroe: "Never before have I felt so much engaged in the blessed work of Jesus. The ever fresh call for exertion which is daily made in these hospitals, leaves a man no time for idleness. The intensity with which the men listen to words from a minister, the anxiety

with which they desire the Bible read, and the earnestness with which they want to be taught to pray, fills one's heart so full, that the great expenditure of physical strength is not to be thought of for a moment.

"When we arrived here, they were dying at the rate of four a day, without a word to guide their minds towards Him who snatches from death its sting, from the grave its victory. Oh, sir, one must see the sad deathbed of such, to fully understand the necessity and importance of the Christian Commission here! A more inviting field can nowhere be found than this. The ground is good, and fully prepared for the seed. I never imagined a more impressible class of men than these wounded soldiers. A few words are often enough to fill their eyes with honest tears, and to fix upon their minds an impression which seems to be lasting.

"Many of these men have not been accustomed to pray, and some have never even known how; yet they desire anxiously to be taught. And when the simple path of coming to the mercy-seat is shown to them, they seize upon it with a fervor surprising indeed. I have one poor Southerner, who was really so ignorant that he could not frame the simplest petition, but now spends most of his time in communion with his Master. God's Holy Spirit seems constantly present, to turn our feeble words in the right direction to reach the heart."

Temporal Work an Aid.

The same man writes from same place: "But besides affording all the spiritual instruction we are able, there is a large amount of work to be done for their temporal comfort. We sit by their bedsides, fan them, make their beds sometimes, cool their lips with water, write letters, read to them, and cheer up their spirits in every way. If a person is faithful in these little attentions, he soon reaches the heart; and then any lesson they should learn, is easily taught to their willing minds.

"We want men to work in this glorious cause. May God bless our National Christian Commission, and put it into the hearts of many more to give of their substance to this most important work."

A young man, during one of the battles before Richmond, while lying upon his face in a storm of shot and shell, consecrated himself to Jesus. He lost an arm; but after he was well, said: "Oh! I would not have it back, if I could, and be as I was before. I have been happy, oh how happy, ever since! It is continued sunshine."

A soldier, after the Perrysville battle, being told by his surgeon that he must die in five minutes, exclaimed, "This is the happiest moment of my life! It grows bright, brighter, brighter!" and then entered into the brightness of the Father's glory.

Efforts Helped Out.

Rev. B. B. Hotchkin, of Pennsylvania, says: "At Falmouth, having got all the wounded who were ready, off in the cars, in an interval of rest I heard singing across the common, and was attracted towards it. I found a circle of men seated in the edge of the woods, singing a hymn, and others gathering around. They sang two verses, and then were at fault. I repeated the verse, and they sang, and so on through the hymn. I then said, 'You have sung sweetly; shall we have a prayer?' 'Yes, yes!' all around. I prayed; and then we had a very interesting meeting, and an interested audience.

"At another time I saw a party of soldiers going out to bury the dead. I followed. They were about to put nine bodies, wrapped in their blankets, into a trench, and cover them up. I said, 'Boys, you ought not to bury these men like dogs. No, no! Shall we have services?' 'Yes.' The men gathered up, and we had services, and gave them a Christian burial."

Gospel for the Famishing.

Rev. A. Read, General Superintendent, under date of November 24th, writes:

"I preached yesterday, within a mile of the battle-field of Chantilly, to men who had not heard a sermon for *seven months*. They were from different regiments of cavalry, Virginia, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and were the

advance pickets. Yesterday's service was an event in their history. There were tears in many eyes when we sang

'May I but safely reach my home, my God, my heaven, my all,'

and a solemn stillness during the sermon for forty minutes. They stood exposed to the cold autumn wind in the wild pine woods and listened to the exposition of God's word, and when an officer led in the closing prayer, supplicating with deep emotion that God would bless the special mercies of that day to them, protect their distant loved ones, and bring them all to the eternal Sabbath, never to part, many hearts were touched. We distributed among them tracts, hymn-books, &c., and they received them as eagerly as though they were letters from home.

"Poor men! Noble heroes! Posterity will never fully appreciate all their toil, sacrifice, and blood.

Good Men in the Army Strengthened and Encouraged.

"At the Balloon hospital, I wrote letters for the men, and read and talked with the wounded. In one of the hospital tents was a man who had often been at the Fulton Street prayer-meeting. He said that when well, he always had prayers in his tent, and should have in his hospital tent as soon as he was well enough.

"Another, I found of the same college with myself, a professor of religion, who had wandered far into error, but the Lord was bringing him back.

"Then, again, came the regimental prayer-meeting. Two of us, candle in hand, amid smoke and darkness, stood with a few others, and sang, and soon quite a crowd assembled, and another pleasant season of worship was enjoyed.

"I believe our visit did the men much good, encouraging and strengthening them, especially in the hospital. They seemed unable to express fully their thanks and gladness. I do believe, the seed sown will not all fall by the wayside, or be choked by thorns."

Desire for Reading Matter.

Rev. John J. Pomeroy, chaplain 3d Penna. Reserves, writes, Dec. 31st, 1862:

"Last week I determined to find reading matter for my men.

I rode fourteen miles to Acquia Creek Landing; found none there. Was told the Christian Commission had a committee at Hope's Landing. I went then five miles above; found none of the Commission there; returned to Acquia, and learned that the depot of the Commission was at Falmouth Station. Last Saturday, with ambulances following me, I started for Falmouth Station, where I found your gentlemanly and energetic agent, Mr. Horace J. Smith. He packed me a box of supplies, gifts forwarded by generous Christian hearts, for our sick in the hospitals. I was also furnished with 240 Testaments, a bundle of American Messengers, and tracts. I started for our camp with this precious load, as proud as if I had captured a whole supply train from the enemy. If those of you at home had witnessed the manner in which these favors were received by our men, you would have fresh encouragement to go on in your noble work. I thank God for the establishment of the Christian Commission."

Mr. Shearer says: "Chaplain Brown, Roundhead regiment, came to the tents of the Commission at Falmouth, and said he had received some small books, tracts and papers the day before, and wanted to pay for them. I was surprised. He declared that the men were willing to pay, and if not, he was. He compelled me to accept pay, and insisted upon putting into my hands an additional sum for fifty hymn-books to be sent to him.

"There was a regiment at Falmouth, known as 'Mud Larks,' and 'Forty Thieves.' One member of it, who was trying to lead a Christian life, carried two Testaments, one in his pocket and one in his knapsack—one to read and one to lend. Speaking to one of our delegates of the Testament, he said, 'Even the "Forty Thieves" have begun to read it. I am often asked for the loan of mine.'"

Rev. F. N. Peloubet, of Oakham, Mass., says: "I have always had a deal of pity for tract distributers—poor martyrs! with the whole world for their inquisition, and refusals, and scorn, and indifference for their instruments of torture, who

> 'Moil and toil till evening gray,
> At thankless work, for scanty pay.'

But in the army I have learned a 'new song.' I have seen men hungry for reading, hungry as if they had been more than the

five days in a moral 'Starvation Valley,' without even the five hardtacks for the five days. I have seen men look earnestly pleading with their eyes 'give me one grain of corn, brother,' as they saw little tracts given to those near them; I have seen them gather around the ambulance whence we were distributing Messengers, old and new—tracts, old religious papers, hymn-books, and some periodicals—pressing eagerly for a drop of the blessing.

"Everywhere men are ready and waiting—the religious paper neglected at home is read here—the tract, scorned and wasted at home, is grasped eagerly here with a 'thank you.' We do not know in our pleasant towns, with reading as common almost as air, what it is to hunger and thirst for something to read. Now is the time to pour forth our good *religious reading*. Not that written for the soldier in particular, but that written for the *human soul*. The soldiers love to see the *citizen's dress* in their reading as well as on their friends. What *we* like to read, *they* like to read. After some prayer-meetings in a regimental hospital, there was much gratitude expressed; they were glad we came and prayed with them; they were glad to see men fresh from home, free from all the trappings of war, to converse with, and pray with and talk to, as in our parishes at home. And it is much the same with reading."

A "Gift Most Opportune."

"CAMP IN THE FIELD, near 'White Oak Church,' Va., Jan. 12th, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"On Saturday last, I was visited by an agent of the Christian Commission of the Young Men's Christian Associations, who kindly gave me for distribution in this regiment, about forty English and fifteen German Testaments, about fifty Soldier's Hymns, and some other religious reading matter.

"This gift was most opportune; for I have been besieged at times during the last two months with commendable violence for religious reading by the different officers and men of our regiment, but it was painful to be obliged to say, 'I have none.'

"Yesterday morning, after I had distributed the mail to the orderly sergeants for their various companies, I requested them to notify three companies, that after morning inspection I would

distribute Testaments and other religious reading to them. The men came, and I gave all away as judiciously as I could in the space of half an hour. The men were thankful, and on their behalf, I tender through you our thanks to the noble Society you represent as Chairman, for these very timely gifts.

"I sincerely pray God to bless you in your noble efforts to promote the spiritual welfare of the officers and soldiers of our army, and specially ask your prayers, that God would pour down His richest blessings on the labors of the chaplains of the army.

"Very respectfully,

"N. W. CAMP, D.D.,

Chaplain 4th Regt. N. J. V., 1st N. J. Brigade, Brooke's Division, Maj. Gen. Franklin's Left Grand Division of the Army of the Potomac.

"GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,

Chairman, &c., &c."

Good Effects of Religious Reading.

Mr. Sloane writes: "Said a man who had lost a limb and been in the hospital three months, to me one day, 'I like to read those books you bring us. Before I came to the war I didn't believe in the Bible, but I have very different views now. After reading some of the books you gave us, I got to reading the Testament, and I know now it is God's own book;' and he afterwards frequently asked me to have prayers in his tent.

Another young man, severely wounded, attributed his first serious thoughts and awakened conscience to some tracts I left with him. He was recovering when I left, and hopes to live a Christian life.

One Tract.

"At Fortress Monroe, Rev. A. Simpson gave out a few tracts that came in a box of stores. One entitled, 'Can you die tranquil?' fell into the hands of a convalescent. He came to me and asked, 'Was it you who left those tracts for us to read?' 'Yes.' Then with tears rolling down his cheeks, he asked me to come and talk to him. I sat down by him and pointed him to Jesus."

Dr. Charles E. Cady, Assistant Surgeon 138th Regt. P. V., in charge of Simpson Hospital, Relay House, Md., writes:

"Many of our inmates are close Biblical students and most de-

voted Christians, and their influence is so keenly felt, that a profane word is not to be heard in any ward. Such evidences of the Christian influence is cheering to witness."

Another surgeon says, "The good, interesting reading matter given to our men in the hospital, does them more good than our medicines by its cheering influence."

Results.

Rev. W. E. Boardman, writing from Alexandria, speaking of an address of Rev. M. C. Auley, says:

"He gave special attention to profanity in the army, and the next day we heard of two captains who, before dismissing their men, gave peremptory orders that there must be no more swearing in their companies. One of the men, with more muscle than grace and more determination than suavity, told his men that the first man of his company who should utter an oath in his presence, he would knock down, and the first man who should hear him, the captain, utter an oath, was at liberty to knock him down.

"A colonel of a Massachusetts regiment was addicted to this habit. The chaplain had often spoken to him with little effect, and finally preached on profanity to two full regiments on Sunday. After the sermon, the colonel addressed the regiment, and nobly said, 'The chaplain had done his duty, and I will do mine. I have been guilty of profanity. I hope I have not injured any of you by it. If I have, I am sorry. I will do so no more. Let us altogether put an end to swearing in the regiment.'"

The Bible before Comforts.

The 102d Pennsylvania Regiment had a good chaplain, and never intermitted its evening prayers, even during the terrible battles before Richmond, having the services sometimes amid the roar of cannon and standing mid-leg deep in mud and water. They had also Bible classes in each company. They came out of those battles having lost all their knapsacks and Bibles and Testaments.

When Gen. McClellan left Harrison's Landing, this regiment, six hundred and twenty-five strong, had the post of honor, the rearguard.

On the morning they left, Rev. Dr. Patterson, a delegate of the Commission, who was there distributing stores and books, and caring for the men, preached to this regiment. At the close of the services, he asked them, "Is there anything I can give you?" Though destitute of all personal comforts, and knowing Dr. P. had many such to distribute, they said, "We have no Bibles and Testaments. We would like ten Bibles for our Bible class teachers, and three hundred Testaments for the men, as we find it hard work to study the Bible without Bibles to study."

A Bible saves Life.

C. S. Griffith, Esq., writes: "Just before the engagement at Williamsburg, a young soldier from Pennsylvania, to disencumber himself, was about to throw away his Bible, when a companion said to him, 'You do not know when you may need it.' He returned it to his pocket, and very soon after received a shot which went through the Bible until it came to this verse, 'But none of these things move me: neither count I my life dear unto myself, so I might finish my course with joy.' The Confederate who fired the shot was afterwards taken prisoner, heard the circumstance, and offered twenty-five dollars for the Bible, but the young soldier could not be induced to part with the precious shield which had saved his life, and we have every reason to conclude, from the great interest he has since manifested in studying its precious promises, that it will work out for him a happy life hereafter."

The Dying Christian Comforted.

After the battle of Fair Oaks, as Mr. Sloane was about lying down on the floor of the hospital, worn and weary with his day's labor, a surgeon asked him to visit a lieutenant, who was in a separate tent apart from others, because his wounds were so offensive, he having lain on the battle-field some forty-eight hours, and who was near his end. Mr. Sloane at once arose and entered the tent. The man did not notice his entrance, and seemed beyond reach, and did not at first respond to questions, but at the name of Christ, that dear name, he revived, and responded warmly to the grasp of the hand. He proved to be a superin-

tendent of a Sabbath-school, from New York State, who was dying in the full hope of a blessed immortality. Mr. S. commenced and prayed with him. What a joy to the dying Christian to have a brother's support and sympathy so unexpectedly as he was entering the dark valley; and what a privilege to be enabled thus to comfort one whom Jesus loved!"

Cheering News from Home to a Sufferer in the Hospital.

Rev. Dr. Patterson writes: "I have just returned from Baltimore, Annapolis, and Washington, where I have enjoyed opportunities long to be remembered, of presenting Christ to suffering men, of praying by the bedsides of the dying, and of cheering the hearts of suffering Christians. The last man I shook hands with in Trinity Hospital said that, during his illness, he had received a letter from some of his Sabbath-school scholars at home, informing him of their conversion, and said he, 'The delirium of the fever passed away, and my soul has been filled with peace and thankfulness for the goodness of God ever since.' Another poor dying man, unable to speak or hear, to whom I made a sign proposing to kneel down and pray, assented, gazed at me most piercingly and anxiously as I prayed beside him, and when I took his hand, held me as if unwilling to let me go. There is a solemn eloquence in these looks and gestures of the dying, indescribably affecting. Several young men promised me they would at once begin to pray, and I have good reason to believe they have not prayed in vain."

Good Effect of Articles Distributed.

Rev. J. O. Sloane writes from General McClellan's army on the Peninsula:

"You can have no conception of the amount of relief afforded by the contents of the boxes sent to us. The soldiers, too, feel that they are not forgotten; that those at home are thinking about them and anxious to relieve them. Many a poor sinking man has been raised up, through the blessing of God, by the nourishing food and delicacies which we have been enabled to give them.

"About four days since, we visited some tents where two hun-

dred sick were gathered in the edge of a pine woods. We found two men very sick from typhoid fever in a small tent off by themselves. One was delirious, and both seemed not far from death. They were lying upon the ground with nothing but their overcoats under them. We washed them and put on clean clothes, furnished by friends at the North, and gave them some nourishing food. To-day I was greatly surprised to find them much improved, and the surgeon said they would both recover. This is only one instance out of many of the same kind."

Germans Accessible.

Rev. William E. Boardman says of the hospital in Claryville, Cumberland:

"Of its six hundred and eleven inmates, some are from different States and from many divisions of the army, but the striking feature is German. And there are so many from Blenker's Division that they call it 'Blenker's Rearguard.' A perfect famine of all German literature seems to have been created by them. Nothing is in such demand as German papers, tracts, and books. The good chaplain says that no faces light up at his approach like the faces of 'Blenker's Rearguard,' especially if he goes with German papers or tracts in his hands. Hymn-books, also, are greatly needed to aid them in their worship, such as the Soldier's Union Hymn-book."

All Connected with the Army Accessible to Religious Influence.

Rev. C. Cushing, of North Brookfield, Mass., writes under date, January 8th:

"On board of the boat upon which two other delegates and myself went from Washington to Falmouth, was a gang of men, who were going to Acquia Creek to work for the Government. They were of that class of men known as 'Dead Rabbits,' and their appearance and language were such that we did not dare to sleep all at a time, as we had some stores along with us. So two of us slept while the other watched.

"Towards morning these men, being cold and hungry, began to give utterance to their feelings in such vile and blasphemous language as I never before heard. They seemed to vie with each other in inventing expressions of blasphemy and wickedness, so

that it seemed to us that we were near the mouth of hell. Their commander was a leader in this.

"When they were weary of this, we took out our Soldier's Hymn-book, and began by singing the National songs in it, which attracted their attention, and they joined in them. We then sang some familiar revival hymns, and they still joined. We then said, 'You have had your turn in talking, have you any objection to our having a prayer-meeting?' Their leader assented, and after some remarks prayer was offered. What was our surprise to see those men rise and reverently uncover their heads during prayer.

"After the services were closed, the leader came and apologized for their conduct, and begged us to give him some of those hymn-books, as he thought it would do them good, saying their hearts were not so hard as their language would indicate. We gave him some, and cannot but hope good will result.

"I was suddenly called home by telegraph to attend the funeral of my own dear mother. I was gone eleven days, and did not have my clothes off, but devoted myself day and night to alleviate the sufferings of the soldiers. I travelled nearly one thousand miles, and the expenses to the Christian Commission for travelling expenses, board, lodgings, &c., was fifteen dollars and forty-seven cents;* surely not an extravagant charity."

Home Influence Revived.

A delegate writes:

"I remember the case of a young man from Maine. He came to my tent to get me to write a letter for him. He had been very sick, and was then just able to walk. We talked for some time on various matters, when I asked him about his home and friends there. He seemed happy to talk about it. He told me his parents were Christians, and they had trained him up in the right way, but he had departed from it in the army.

"I said: 'But have you not prayed to God to help you? Your father and mother are praying for you, and yet you never pray for yourself.' He became much affected, and said, 'It is too

* Nine dollars and twenty-five cents of this was for fare on roads which now pass our delegates free.

true; they are constantly praying for me. Oh, I wish you could see the letters they write to me. I must attend to this matter, for I feel unhappy every time I read one of their letters, that I am not what they wish and are praying that I may be.' His heart seemed too full to allow him to say more, and he hastened away. I saw him afterwards, and I think he has sought an interest in Jesus' blood, and with those friends at home, who have prayed for him, become an heir of heaven."

Comfort to Friends at Home.

"ALBANY, December 28th, 1862.

"TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

"Dear Friends: I take this opportunity of offering you my many thanks for your kindness shown to my brother William Montgomery, the young man whom you met last Sabbath at Acquia Creek, and to whom, I doubt not, you paid kind attention. You have the grateful thanks of his afflicted parents and brother and sisters, and may God bless you for it; not only for this, but for your many other deeds of kindness towards the poor sick and wounded soldiers. My brother died three hours after reaching Washington in Island Hall Hospital. He was buried at the Soldier's Home.

"Will any one please tell me, if you know, what were his feelings with regard to death, as I have no doubt but that some of you spoke to him on the subject, and pointed him to the Savior. Oh, for one ray of hope with regard to the welfare of his soul.

"May God bless you in your labor of love.

"Very respectfully yours,

"MARY MONTGOMERY."

Happily they had abundant testimony to send to his sister that he died in the triumphs of the Christian's hope.

Paper and Envelopes.

One of the most grateful articles for the soldiers is a sheet of paper and an envelope. Often they are not able to write home for want of them. All the delegates bear testimony to this. A few expressions we give.

Mr. Shearer says: "Oh, how thankfully they received them.

Would that friends at home could have seen their glad faces as we gave them paper and envelopes, and heard their many thanks as they said: 'Now I will write to my wife.' 'This is what I have long waited for.' 'I have not been paid off for eight months; I could not buy; this comes just right.' "

Rev. B. H. Creaver says: "Nothing is received with more eagerness and gratitude than paper, envelopes, and pens."

A Rebel Captain, from Alabama,

Badly wounded and kindly cared for by Rev. Mr. Sloane, finally said: "I never did see any reason for our rebellion. I felt no oppression from the Government, and I am here to-day, one of many, suffering with wounds on account of our folly and crime."

Another,

A North Carolina Soldier,

Brought in from Fair Oaks, saw he must die. His wounds were too offensive to allow him to remain with the others. A separate tent and special nurse were provided, and every want supplied. Mr. Sloane and the good surgeon attending sought to prepare him for death. The hour came. They were by his side. He asked to have his will written.

He gave some memento to each of his children, with messages of love. Then, in answer to the question whether he felt alarmed in view of death, he said "No! I trust God has pardoned all my sins, and will save me for Christ's sake. My guilt is great. I have sinned very much in taking up arms against the Government, but I trust God has forgiven all." His end was peaceful.

New Distributers.

One scene on the Mississippi may suffice to call attention distinctly to an important feature of the great work of the Commission,—the distribution of Bibles, Testaments, and religious books, tracts, and papers.

Three valuable boxes were sent forward last fall, to Evansville, Indiana, and reshipped from there to Memphis, Tennessee, soon after the stars and stripes were flung to the breeze over it. On their way, the guerillas captured the steamboat on which they

were shipped. They knocked open one of the boxes, and finding in it soldiers' books and tracts, they made an orderly distribution of all in that box to their own men, supplying them abundantly, and then sent the other two boxes on their way to Memphis, which they reached in safety, and were most timely and welcome, as will be seen by the following letter from Rev. Dr. Grundy, the heroic Union pastor at Memphis, who stood the fire, and came out without the smell of it upon him.

"MEMPHIS, October 26, 1862.

"GEO. H. STUART.

"MY DEAR BROTHER: Through you we have received a valuable present for the army here, sent by the Christian Commission. As soon as it was known that they had come, the soldiers sought the books with eager and grateful avidity; and many begged for more, and said, when disappointed, 'Our regiment ought to have had some of them.'

"Providentially, two brethren, Rev. Mr. Wood, of the American Tract Society, and Rev. Mr. Emory, pastor at Quincy, delegates of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, St. Louis, came along on Saturday, following up your kindness. They are the men for the work, and are just in time. The soldiers received them as messengers of mercy.

"May the Lord bless you in your good work, and save our bleeding country from utter ruin."

As a distributing agency in the army, the Christian Commission acts in harmony with the American Bible Society, the American Tract Societies of New York and Boston, and the various other Societies and Boards of Publication; and whilst they generously aid its work by grants, it affords them an agency for safe, certain, and wise distribution in its great field, difficult of access by others.

Our "Commission" Known, Recognized, and Valued.

J. B. D., of Camden, New York, writes from Antietam: "I found the 'commission' from the Christian Commission, to be an 'open sesame,' with which I entered the lines of our armies at all points, and which secured me all desirable facilities in prosecuting the object of my mission."

Patience and Patriotism of Men.

The same person writes: "The patience and fortitude with which these noble fellows endure their privations and sufferings, are truly marvellous. From painful wounds and uncomfortable positions, many of them spend sleepless nights; but their suffering is in silence. You hear no audible expression. Indeed, I found occasion, several times, to chide them for not making known their condition, when they had an opportunity to do so. Their patriotism also was intense.

"An interesting young man, the son of a minister, when dying, said: 'Tell father, that though life is to me very precious, I yield it up cheerfully for my country.' And among all the multitudes I saw, I heard no expression of regret that they had entered the army; but, on the other hand, it was no uncommon thing to hear them express a determination to join their regiments, as soon as they should sufficiently recover to do so."

Certificate of Surgeons of the Army of the Potomac, as to the Practical Efficiency of the Commission.

We, the undersigned, having been connected with the Medical Department at Yorktown, for the past month, feel it to be a duty and privilege to acknowledge, that the assistance rendered us by the Christian Commission, acting through the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, and the Ladies' Aid Society, which have unitedly and harmoniously operated at this point, has been of the most reliable character.

The poor soldier must have been deprived of many a delicacy, as well as the proper nutritious food, and much of the best stimulants, but for their prompt and free contributions.

We feel like saying, "May the Lord reward them, for their work and labor of love."

J. Q. A. McCollester, Groton, Mass.
Geo. C. Staebsling, Surgeon 52d New York Vol'rs.
J. H. Morse, M.D., Massachusetts.
J. A. Howe, M.D., Newburyport, Mass.
Wm. D. Lamb, M.D., Lawrence, Mass.
P. B. Balch, Ass't Surgeon 18th N. York Vol'rs.

Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D.D., of Philadelphia, writes thus of a visit to Gen. McClellan, at Antietam: "I visited, in company with three other brethren of our party, the headquarters of

Gen. McClellan. He was just starting out with his staff, but stopped for an introduction to us, as clergymen and delegates of the Christian Commission. After replying to our congratulations and kind wishes, he avowed his sincere appreciation of our labors; thanked us and the Commission for the services rendered; and said, that whatever was done for his soldiers, was done for himself."

Dr. Nordquist, Medical Director of the 1st Army Corps, said he desired to thank the Commission for what they had done to relieve his men; that their services were appreciated by himself, as well as by the sufferers.

Mr. Shearer met an old schoolmate, who said: "Having heard of the Christian Commission, I rode ten miles from camp, to find some one connected with it, but failed. Next day I rode ten miles in a different direction, and succeeded."

Mr. Ogden writes from Fortress Monroe: "The volunteer surgeons say, that but for the stimulants from the Christian Commission, they would have lost many lives by wounds and typhoid fever, which have been saved, and I know they speak the truth.

"I wish you could hear the poor fellows emphasize as they thank you and bless you. You would be grateful to God that He has permitted you to do so much.

"An officer said to Mr. Shearer, at Falmouth, 'I told the members of the Commission at Falmouth, their Christianity was practical, and such as would meet a sure reward in heaven.'

Liberality.

A workman who was at a meeting held in Philadelphia, for the Commission, called the next day on the chairman, with seventy-five dollars, being the day's wages of each man in the establishment in which he worked.

A servant girl in Philadelphia, who has ninety-one dollars wages for last year, gave twenty-five dollars to the Commission.

The following letter was received by the agent of the Boston Army Committee:

"North Reading, Sept. 1862.

"Mr. Rowland.

"Dear Sir: Please accept of the widow's mite, who is about

eighty years old. I send a barrel of good reading, books, tracts, and pamphlets of various kinds, to amuse and instruct our poor sick and wounded soldiers; also, shirts, pocket-handkerchiefs, bandages, &c., and numerous articles of refreshments suitable for hospitals. Please send them to the most needy.

M. C.

"P.S. I have not money to pay the freight; how I wish I had; how freely would I do it."

A woman whose name is concealed, sent us fifty dollars first, then one hundred dollars, then one hundred and fifty dollars, then two hundred dollars, and then one hundred dollars. Five hundred dollars came from a gentleman in England, who had seen an account of the Commission in print. A lady whose country-seat, near Belfast, Ireland, is named *Mount Vernon*, with her neighbors, made up and sent a box of religious reading matter. At the great meeting in Boston, recently held, a collection, amounting to more than three thousand dollars, was taken; and about ten thousand dollars given unsolicited in New York, within a few days after the great meeting there.

With little solicitation, funds and stores have come in upon us, as our plans and work have become known, from those who love their country and the souls of its brave defenders.

Appeals from the Field.

From all parts of the field, from all ranks of officers, from good men of all denominations of Christians, and even from those who are not members of any church, appeals come from day to day to the Commission, for men of the right stamp for chaplains, and for religious reading matter of the right kind for soldiers.

The following letters from two of our Generals in the field—one in the East, and the other in the West—are all we have space for.

Letter from General Birney.

"Headquarters, Third Corps, Army of the Potomac,
Camp, February 8, 1863.

"My dear Sir: I have received your favor, and answer it with pleasure. In this command there are but few chaplains. Most of them have resigned and gone home. But few of the

right sort of men, physically and mentally adapted to the work, have been sent us.

"Men like the Rev. Mr. Shinn, of my old regiment, the 23d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, have been few. He preached but little, and was unobtrusive; but on every battle-field, during the whistling of bullets and scream of shell, he was by the side of the wounded, and many a poor fellow in the hospital was grateful for his Christian charities. During camp life, the soldiers saw him working faithfully, during storm and sunshine, with the mail, bringing and sending home messages.

"God bless him, is the prayer of every soldier of that regiment, and myself, as having selected him.

"There are plenty of vacancies, if you will send and recommend such active men; not the wretched broken-down men that often seek refuge in an army chaplaincy. Though not a church-member, you will have my active co-operation to plant such men as you may select, in my old division.

"Yours, with respect,

"D. B. BIRNEY,

Brigadier General.

"GEO. H. STUART, Esq."

Two Letters from General Fisk.

"HEADQUARTERS, SECOND BRIGADE, U. S. VOLUNTEERS,
"HELENA, ARK., Feb. 16, 1863.

"MY DEAR BROTHER BOARDMAN: I greet you with a God bless you, from the sunset side of the Mississippi, 'way down south, in Dixie.'

"I am just in receipt of the programme of exercises of our Commission's anniversary, on the 29th ult., at the American Academy of Music, in the city of Brotherly Love. I wish I could have been with you, and told you our *necessities*, based upon my own experience and observation on the field. Oh, how the soldiers are stretching out their hands for religious reading! I assure you that my hands, head, and heart find full employment in my new field of labor. I devote all the hours I can to the religious training of my men. I preach to them on the Sabbath; I bow with them in prayer in their quarters; I try to encourage the doubting, bring back the wanderer, and call the

sinner to a proper recognition of and obedience to the great Captain of our salvation. Oh, for more Christian courage in the army! If every man who had named the name of Jesus at home, would have the courage to stand by the banner of the cross while in the army, it would do much to stem the tide of iniquity that floods our camps.

"I would that every Christian in the land, who has an acquaintance, son, brother, husband or father in the army, would write them on this subject of Christian courage,—give them 'line upon line.'

"I am much in want of Testaments, hymn-books, cards, tracts, small books, and papers. Can you send me a large box? Adams' Express has an agency at this point, and you can doubtless send them free of charge. I wish you would have five thousand hymn-books put up for me, with the card on the cover printed, 'Presented to —— ——, of Fisk's Brigade, by the Christian Commission,' &c.

"All this gives value to the little book, and leads the men to be more careful in keeping their books clean.

"I would like one thousand of the 'Soldier's Prayer-book,' published by the Protestant Episcopal Book Society, 1224 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia; five thousand 'Roll Call,' a small tract, published at the same institution; and also their card of 'Promise,' 'Gospel Truth,' &c. I have one regiment mostly Episcopalian. You cannot send me too much. I will try and be a living, acting, fighting member of the Commission.

"I have never yet seen your plan for organizing Christian Unions or Societies in the regiments. Please send me a few copies. Direct mail or packages to 'Brigadier General Clinton B. Fisk, care Rev. I. G. Forman, Helena, Arkansas.'

"Remember me with much love to Brother Stuart. Pray for me.

"Excuse this disjointed written-in-the-field scrawl.

"Yours faithfully, in Christian bonds,

"CLINTON B. FISK."

"HELENA, ARK., Feb. 20, 1863.

"MY DEAR BROTHER STUART: Your notice to me, of the meeting of the Christian Commission at Philadelphia, on the

28th ult., and our anniversary meeting, to be held on the evening of the 29th ult., has this day reached me, after travelling around on my track for one month.

"It would have been a source of great joy to me to have been with you on both of these interesting occasions; but I celebrated the anniversary eve in my saddle, along the lines, in front of the enemy. God be with you in your labor of love. How much we are wanting the power of the Christian religion in the army! Push on the work. I will cheerfully represent our Commission in the field. I bring your labors before my command each Sabbath-day. I conduct my own religious services, and we have most blessed meetings. I wrote Brother Boardman at length, a day or two since, telling him of my wants. I know he will respond to the utmost. There is great destitution of all religious matter in the Western army. The tide flows eastward. Give us the best books you can.

"We are getting on slowly with the fighting department; but success is certain. *We shall conquer this rebellion.* We shall have a peace established in righteousness and justice. The Republic will live!

'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.'

"Yours, faithfully,

"CLINTON B. FISK,

"Brigadier General of Volunteers."

With these letters, illustrating the urgent and universal wants of the field, we must close our account of the work of the Commission at the seat of war. It remains now to give brief sketches of the work of the various Young Men's Christian Associations, and of our District Committees, in their own various localities, in co-operation with the Commission.

THE BOSTON ARMY COMMITTEE,

With its many coadjutors, has been most abundant in labors. They have not only accomplished a large and successful work at home, but they have been a centre of influence for all New England; holding public meetings, circulating information concerning our work, establishing agencies and army committees in a large number of towns and cities.

This committee has been constantly active in collecting and forwarding to the armies of the nation, supplies of stores and reading matter. More than seven hundred packages have been secured through their efforts, and as the work of the Commission becomes more widely known, this source of supply is growing, like the others, daily more abundant.

Quite a number of our delegates have come from this region, visiting and ministering to the sufferers on every battle-field and in every camp.

In the work at home, they have employed a missionary for a portion of the labor in the hospitals.

Six hundred and thirteen meetings for prayer and conference have been held by members of the Young Men's Christian Association, on board the U. S. receiving ship Ohio, where from time to time, as they have been recruited, have been gathered a large portion of the seamen now defending the honor of our flag on the ocean. Here they have met—Christian young men,—in those crowded meetings, far down below the water-line; here responded to the call of the Gospel, and found Jesus a Savior. These brave tars are standing up for Jesus on all seas, and are conducting prayer-meetings on board most of our national vessels, from which they often hear cheering reports. There has been an almost uninterrupted revival on board the Ohio for more than a year, and the work on that ship gives abundant evidence that the hearts of the sons of the ocean are peculiarly open to the Gospel when brought to them with words and acts of kindness and sympathy.

In this work, thousands of Bibles and Testaments, two thousand eight hundred religious books, three hundred and fifty prayer-books, ten thousand religious papers, one hundred and eighty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-six pages of tracts, and two thousand copies of the Soldier's and Sailor's hymn-books have been distributed.

This committee has held eight public meetings in Boston and twenty-eight in various parts of New England, to arouse public interest in our work. They have (in addition to four thousand six hundred and five dollars sent to the Central Office), expended two thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven dollars and seventy-four cents in their home-work.

NEW YORK.

After long delay from unforeseen obstacles, a committee in every way worthy of the great City of New York, and of our great work for the nation, its heroes, and our Divine Master, has been fully organized.

The vigor, enterprise, and comprehensiveness of effort and plan, evinced by their movements in this the very infancy of their progress, give ample promise of great and good things to come.

As a *field of operations*, they take,

1. The vessels of war fitted out in this harbor, with their transports, and the squadrons receiving their supplies from here; that is, the bulk of our entire naval force.

2. The forts, camps, and naval or military hospitals in New York and its vicinity not otherwise cared for.

3. The armies, and military or naval hospitals on the Atlantic coast,—at the mouth of the Chesapeake, in the sounds of North Carolina, the islands of South Carolina and Georgia, the mainland and islands of Florida and Alabama, and within the military department of the Gulf of Mexico.

The aggregate number of sailors and soldiers embraced within these limits, is estimated at 150,000, of whom not far from one-tenth are in hospitals.

Besides caring for this immense interest, the Committee sustain a cordial auxiliary relation to the General Commission in Philadelphia, whose operations cover all the remaining army departments; and they hope to furnish men and means in liberal aid of the national enterprise.

As a *field of supply*, New York, Connecticut, and Eastern New Jersey have been assigned to them.

Meeting of the Clergy of New York and Brooklyn.

The plans of the Committee having been matured and publicly announced, the clergy were invited to meet in Clinton Hall, January 28th, 1863, to consider and act upon them. The Rev. William Adams, D.D., was in the Chair, and the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D.D., Secretary. After the unfolding of the enterprise by the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission, and by the Rev. Alexander Reed, of Pennsylvania, a returned delegate, a

Committee was appointed, consisting of the Rev. Drs. Williams, Hitchcock, Hutton, Holdich, Taylor, and Smith, who reported, and the meeting unanimously adopted the following

Resolutions.

Resolved, That the aims and labors of the Christian Commission eminently commend themselves to the patriotism and Christianity of our country; and that engaged as the nation now is, in a fearful strife for the vindication and perpetuity of its own unity and life, the brave men of our army and navy, who have in this behalf "taken their lives in their hands," are, when beaten down by exhaustion, disease, or battle, or when about to peril themselves "on the high places of the field," the last class whom a Christian nation should leave anywhere, or in any degree to complain, "No man careth for my soul."

Resolved, That while we gratefully recognize the provision made by the Government for chaplaincies, and its acknowledgment of the rights of the Christian Sabbath, and while we admire and sustain the extended and effective labors of the Sanitary Commission, all such action remains imperfect and ineffective, except as sustained and supplemented by the churches; that our country has in its past history, been summoned by the providence of God, to prove before other people of the earth, how a nation without standing armies might uphold order and security, and how churches without a state endowment, might liberally maintain and widely diffuse religion; and that, in the new emergencies of this vast war, God calls us to the yet loftier task of proving before all gainsayers how an improvised army and an improvised navy may effectually assert for a republic its national rights and its energetic life; and how too, in such a time, the voluntary and unsalaried exertions of Christian zeal can, under God's blessing, send through all the rifts and chasms opened by this conflict, the influences of a warm, prompt, and loving charity.

Resolved, That to give new power to our valiant champions, and to make them an effective moral police amid these national convulsions, they need and have full right to expect that they should be followed, as far as may be, to the camp, the deck, and hospital, by the influences, remembrances, and sympathies of

the homes and the sanctuaries from which they have gone forth, and which some of them may never be permitted to revisit; and that thus to seek to render our soldiers and sailors yet more and more intelligent, resolute, conscientious, and devout, is a work demanded alike by gratitude, humanity, patriotism, and religion; and that champions so followed and sustained, are the more likely to return as law-abiding citizens and principled patriots, to the quiet pursuits of home, and the orderly administration of the republic.

Resolved, That heavy as are the drafts made on the resources and incomes of the people, it is by such sacrifices resolutely encountered, that God has trained nations for enduring freedom; and that mere material prosperity, unchecked and untasked, has often ripened a people for irremediable ruin; that infinite wisdom, in the symbols of that inspired dream by which it analyzed prophetically to the Chaldean king, the causes of the ruin of the world's old empires, showed a head of gold toppling to inevitable overthrow, because supported on feet of incongruous and unassimilated iron and clay, a lesson remaining true for all after times; and that a Christian republic must educate, humanize, and evangelize its population into moral sympathy and brotherhood, as the indispensable precedent condition for the retention of its life and powers; that wealth finds its sweetest uses and its surest safeguards in such beneficent activity, and knowledge its happiest honors in such diffusion of its treasures, and faith and love so busied, find in Providence unexpected resources and an invincible ally; but that to hope to build up a Christian state in this nineteenth Christian century, by steadying the power of the few on the ignorance, oppression, venality, and corruption of the many, is to hope that the head of gold may on our Western shores, find in the mingled but discordant iron and clay, a steadfastness which God has always and everywhere denied to such an experiment; and that its success here could be hoped only by its proving itself able to erase principles that God has deeply and repeatedly graven upon the history of the nations, and only by its outwitting and outworking the retributions of a Providence, that has never yet been seen to slumber.

Resolved, That we urge, therefore, most heartily upon all our churches, that their prayers and alms and efforts be given with-

out stint to the work so wisely and effectually commenced by the Christian Commission.

The Great Public Meeting of the Commission in the Academy of Music. Lieutenant-General Scott in the Chair. Major-General Burnside present.

One of the most impressive public meetings in behalf of a Christian cause, was held on Sabbath evening, February 9th, in the Academy of Music. That spacious edifice was crowded to its utmost capacity, and thousands could not gain admittance. It was estimated that a thousand persons stood the entire evening in the aisles and lobbies of the building. On the spacious platform were grouped scores of the clergy, military officers, eminent jurists, merchants, and public men. On the right and left of the Chair sat ex-Governor Morgan, of New York, General Anderson, Judges Allen and Woodruff of the Supreme Court, and other distinguished citizens.

Mr. William E. Dodge reminded the audience that it was a Christian occasion that had assembled them on the Lord's day, and suggested that any demonstrations of respect for the venerable presiding officer of the evening, or others, should be made by the silent rising of the assembly. When the majestic form of General Scott appeared, the vast congregation arose in solemn stillness,—an unprecedented act of blended respect for a great chieftain, and of reverence for the King of kings. The simple spectacle was sublime. There was a similar demonstration when General Burnside entered.

General Scott silently bowed his acknowledgments for this expression of Christian respect, and on assuming the chair, said:

"FELLOW-CITIZENS: The honor done me on this occasion, in calling me to occupy this Chair upon an occasion of so much importance and worth, gladdens the heart of an old soldier, and fills him with gratitude and love. New York has sent out her thousands upon thousands of brave sons, to fight the battles of our Constitution and Union, and has not forgot them in the field, or upon their return home. Her care has been incessant. She has given them every aid, has cared for their families, and watched over the wounded, sick, lame, and halt upon their return.

The objects of this Association will be explained to you by my colleague in the duties of the Chair, more fully than I shall attempt upon the occasion. With such a cause, that God will prosper our efforts and give us triumph, no Christian man can doubt.

After prayer by Rev. Dr. Van Norman, addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Tyng, Rev. Alexander Reed, Col. McKean, M. C., Rev. Mr. Ganse, Major-General Burnside, U. S. A., Rev. Mr. Duryea, and George H. Stuart, Esq., and the meeting closed by the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Shedd.

The addresses were varied, impressive, eloquent, and powerful. Enthusiasm rose to the end; the whole city and country felt the force of the meeting, and its benefits will extend to all parts of the army, the navy, and nation.

One of the many great and good results already realized is the voluntary, unsolicited contribution of about ten thousand dollars to the treasury of the Committee, which is the earnest of many thousands more.

Encouraged by this vigorous and noble beginning in New York, the Commission, confident of liberal and efficient aid both in men and means, from this newly-opened and ample metropolitan source of supply, feel warranted in entering upon enlarged systematic plans for extending thoroughly and equally throughout all the forces of the Union, the grand benefits of a personal agency, together with the Sacred Scriptures, religious publications, and such stores as may be needed.

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn has been enterprising, active, and efficient in work, amongst the soldiers of the camps and hospitals in their own vicinity, and have done much for the army at the seat of war. Fifteen of their number, in connection with their Army Committee, assisted occasionally by many other members, have given special attention to this work, and three special agents have visited the battle-fields of Roanoke, N. C., Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., and Antietam, Md., with the various camps and hospitals in the region of these battles.

They have also had a missionary agent constantly employed holding meetings, distributing publications, and doing whatever could be done for the benefit of the men in the camps and hospitals of Brooklyn and New York.

Up to January 1st, they had collected and distributed 263 boxes, barrels, &c., of stores, 10,000 bound volumes, 15,000 magazines and pamphlets, 25,000 papers, 100,000 pages of tracts.

The stores and publications distributed are estimated at $25,000, and the money disbursed amounts to $3790 41. Twenty meetings have been held in the churches in behalf of the soldiers, and about sixty meetings of various kinds with the men.

PHILADELPHIA.

The highest praise is due to the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, and their Army Committee, for early activity, unceasing perseverance, unflagging interest, varied enterprise, and abundant labors in army work. Their home field has been almost unbounded, and yet they have given to the Commission the invaluable services of many of their noble men, from counting-room and pulpit, workshop and office, to aid in the greater field of the various scenes of conflict.

The numerous camps in and around the city, large and small, and the vast hospitals within the radius of a few miles from Independence Hall, might have overwhelmed them, to the neglect of all effort for the vast encampments and hospitals along the war belt, east, west, and south; but this home work seems only to have excited them to greater interest in the work abroad.

The Army Meetings,

Held by them on behalf of the soldiers, are unsurpassed as a series, by any series of meetings known. For more than sixty Sabbath evenings consecutively, up to January 1st, if we except one or two only in the heat of summer, public meetings have been held in churches of all evangelical denominations, in all parts of the city; always full, always interesting, and often thrilling in character, and densely crowded in numbers. And the contributions, though in no case large, have in almost every case been liberal, making in the aggregate a generous sum.

Delegates for the Commission.

For about fifty delegates, one of whom, Rev. Mr. Ladd, fell a martyr to the work, the Christian Commission is in debt to the Philadelphia Association. Of these, others besides the lamented and beloved Ladd, were brought to the borders of the grave by the abundance of their labors, and the terrible ordeal of exposure, privation, and excitement, through which they sought the salvation of our brave men, body and soul. Yet none ever murmured or complained, and many have gone time and again. Such a cause only as this, which combines all that is sacred in the service of God, all that is touching and thrilling in the relief and benefit of man, and all that is noble and heroic in the salvation of our nation in peril, could ever have called pastors from their churches, physicians from their patients, lawyers from their cases, merchants from their customers, and men of all walks from their homes, and home comforts and duties, to go out and sleep on the ground, eat hardtack, drink muddy water, or coffee more muddy, for the pleasure of washing and cleansing muddy, bloody, vermin-covered, infected, wounded, fœtid men, and of preaching to them the blessed Jesus, and cheering them from home.

These fifty delegates have gladdened the soldiers by their presence, and words and deeds of love, in all the hospitals, and on all the battle-fields of the Peninsula, of Pope's disastrous campaign, of the Maryland invasion, of the Fredericksburg repulse, and of the Murfreesboro' victory.

In the prosecution of the home work, about two hundred members of the Association have participated, several hundreds of meetings have been held with the soldiers, in hospitals and camps, and fifteen hundred Testaments, twenty-five Bibles, thirty thousand and fifty-four hymn and psalm books, nine thousand seven hundred and eight other books, six hundred thousand pages of tracts, three thousand five hundred magazines, and thirty-eight thousand seven hundred papers have been distributed.

Two features of the home work in Philadelphia deserve special mention. First:

Milk Supplied to the Hospitals.

A supply of milk not having been furnished by Government, the Association, by request of the surgeons, arranged with relia-

ble milkmen for a daily supply, to be left at the hospitals. Up to February 14th, the quantity furnished amounted to forty thousand two hundred and twenty quarts, fifteen hundred of which had been generously contributed by the milkmen.

The other home work alluded to, is

The Record of Pennsylvania Soldiers in Hospitals in and around Philadelphia.

At the earnest solicitation of the Governor and Surgeon-General of the State of Pennsylvania, the Young Men's Christian Association have undertaken to furnish and keep at the Rooms of the Association, a complete record of all Pennsylvania soldiers in the hospitals in and around the city, to visit them weekly, attend to their wants so far as they may be able, communicate with their friends at home if they desire it, and in fact, to seek to make their condition as comfortable as possible, and at the same time, to benefit them spiritually by religious conversation, gifts of tracts and books, and establishing prayer-meetings among them.

To further this work, they have obtained from the Governor and Surgeon-General, commissions for sixty-one persons, giving them the privilege of visiting all the hospitals, and asking the co-operation of the surgeons in charge to aid in the work. This work is being prosecuted with vigor. The Commissioners meet and report weekly, and a Secretary has been employed, whose whole time is occupied in copying the names, and having general oversight of the Commissioners.

THE BALTIMORE ARMY COMMITTEE,

Occupying a delicate and difficult position in a community not fully sympathizing with them, have been most active and zealous since the hour of their organization. They have sent out sixty commissioned delegates, who have ministered upon various battle-fields, and in the camps and hospitals at Baltimore, Frederick, Smoketown, Antietam, South Mountain, York, Harper's Ferry, Annapolis, and Annapolis Junction.

In connection with this work they have distributed five hundred and four cases of valuable and timely stores, and expended two thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars.

No less than four hundred and ninety persons, male and female, have aided them in their home work, holding (distinct from the chaplain's services) eight hundred and sixty prayer-meetings; distributing *personally* five thousand six hundred Bibles and other books, eighty-five thousand papers, twenty thousand pamphlets, and four million pages of religious tracts. In addition, they have constantly employed two laborious faithful men as missionaries, who have general supervision of this work, and thus accomplished truly great things for the cause of our country and the cause of God. One of these, Rev. Mr. Poerner, a German, has had great success among his countrymen, who have listened with tearful interest to religious instruction from their fellow-German, many of them weeping with joy at hearing the Gospel preached in their own language. Very interesting results have been realized, as the following incidents and statements will show:

At one of the prayer-meetings in a hospital, a young man of fine education arose and declared, that by the influence of the meetings, he had been induced to review his life, and was ashamed he had so long neglected his duties to God. He was determined to lead a religious life, and he should ever thank God for his merciful providence in sending such Christian friends under such strange and unexpected circumstances.

At another meeting a Frenchman arose and said, that in early life he had frequently attended places of worship, "but for many years," said he, "I have not been in any place where there were religious services, until I came into the hospital. When I was getting better of my sickness, I saw others going into the prayer-meeting, and I went from curiosity. There I heard one of my fellow-soldiers tell how happy he had been since he had determined to lead a religious life, and how delightful were his hopes of Heaven and everlasting life, when the cares and troubles of this life should all be past, and he exhorted all his fellow-soldiers to seek the Savior at once. That speech led me to desire to be a Christian. I have been to every prayer-meeting since, and I now feel it to be my duty not to rest till I find I am accepted of Christ."

He is now a devout and humble follower of Jesus, believing he is accepted as a child of God and heir of His kingdom.

Rev. R. Spencer Vinton, chaplain of McKim's Hospital, relates the following incident:

Among others, Sylvester McKinley of Pennsylvania, was received into the hospital, immediately after the battle of Antietam. He was a noble-looking youth, of fine figure and intelligent face. He had lost his left arm and was much reduced; he was in great destitution, having neither coat, vest, or hat. All who saw him were interested in him, and the ladies of the Relief Association took charge of him and rendered him comfortable. His condition being critical, I at once began to give him religious instruction. Having been a Sunday-school scholar, he easily understood my teachings, and listened with attention, desiring to know if I thought Jesus would be his friend and Savior. He received my assurances of Christ's interest in him with joy, and was made happy in the belief that he should reach heaven. In my daily visits to him, I always found him with his Testament in his hand or near him. I prayed with him and found him trusting in God and confident in his hope of heaven. His nurse was faithful, and he was grateful for all kindness. Worn out by his sufferings and almost fainting, he asked his nurse to hand him his Testament. He opened it, read a brief passage: "Now," said he, in a feeble voice, "place it under my head." The nurse did as he wished. He calmly laid his head upon the treasured volume, and in a moment was asleep in Jesus.

WASHINGTON CITY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The work at their own door has been boundless, and most nobly done. For months past, from twenty to thirty thousand of sick and wounded have been distributed in the various hospitals in the District, and the Association has aided the Commission in its efforts for their relief and instruction.

Immediately after the commencement of the arrival of troops, and while they were all quartered in the city, it was divided into districts, and each district given in charge to certain members of the Association, whose duty it was to see that the spiritual wants were met.

Thirty delegates have also been commissioned at Washington

for the battle-fields and hospitals, and some of them are still engaged in the good work.

The Association subsequently employed a missionary, paying his salary and expenses from their own treasury, to work amongst the Government teamsters and laborers, and in the camps adjacent to the city. This mission, which commenced March 1st, 1862, deserves a more extended notice than we are able to give it, for it is one of exceeding interest.

Mission amongst Government Teamsters.

Rev. C. P. Lyford, the first one employed in this mission, was aided by members of the Association, and by his wife, who was a charming singer, and whose presence with her husband had the restraining and subduing influence peculiar to woman. The field was very unpromising. The men connected with the Quartermaster's Department were herded together in two great encampments. There was nothing to restrain or refine them. Their work was rough, and they were away from home, in the capital where temptation is rife. They knew no Sabbath; the atmosphere shook with profanity; drink was easily obtained; gambling was their passtime; and every influence was corrupting.

A church was obtained, but they would not attend it. Soon Mr. Lyford, accompanied by his wife, went into the camp, and standing upon a box, commenced singing. The men looked up and exclaimed, "What's up!" and came rushing together. A talk about their homes and hardships, and the hardening influences around them, and about Jesus and salvation, followed by prayer, started the tears freely, and they urged them to come again.

Shortly the teamsters themselves arranged a canvas chapel, very large and comfortable, with bales of hay and intervening planks for seats, and a rude pulpit, all of their own accord, and appointed one to go through the camp to call the men together at each service, and spoke of it as their church. And there many a wanderer has been reclaimed, and we hope some sinners converted.

This led to a similar movement in the other great camp of the teamsters. There they used a schoolhouse which was within their limits, and added to it a great wide awning in front, so that

the missionary could stand in the doorway and speak to the men both inside and out.

Rev. O. P. Pitcher succeeded Mr. Lyford, and is successfully carrying on the work, the arrangements in the great dining-halls of mess-houses, both for preaching on the Sabbath and prayer-meetings on week-day evenings, being much more satisfactory than in the early progress of the work. The Quartermaster's Hospital has also been much enlarged,—now capable of accommodating over one hundred patients, over which the missionary acts as chaplain, and where he holds one of the five regular services of the Sabbath, and visits through the week.

They have distributed about eighteen thousand nine hundred and sixty Testaments; four hundred and fifty thousand three hundred and eighty-four pages of books, pamphlets, and tracts; twenty-five thousand six hundred and twenty religious papers, and have held more than five hundred preaching, prayer, and other religious meetings.

The ladies have aided them, and committees of ladies and gentlemen, authorized by Government, have visited each hospital and seen the patients individually, to ascertain their wants, temporal and spiritual, and supply them. They have placed their gifts in the hands of the men, and have not allowed them to go through the nurses and other officers of the hospital.

The Association has also greatly helped the Commission in their general work. Before the Commission was formed, they obtained from Government the free use of a room in the Post Office building and one in the Patent Office building, for operations in the army, which they tendered to the Commission upon its establishment. Afterwards it was found that their rooms on Pennsylvania Avenue were better adapted for our work, as it became more extensive, and now they are used for our office and store-room, and also for sleeping-rooms for all of our delegates while they are in Washington, and all this free of charge. They have also been of great service to us in securing for the Commission the use of ambulances and other Government facilities.

The Commission are under great obligations to Mr. Wm. Ballantyne, the Chairman of our District Committee in Washington, for the use of his store, for much of his time given to the

direction of the work, and for his valuable suggestions from time to time.

BUFFALO.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

The report of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Buffalo, N. Y., must be given principally in generalities. The Secretary of the Committee, having himself recently joined the army, and left only a portion of the records obtainable by the Committee, we are therefore left without the statistical facts necessary to make our report as complete as would be desirable.

The Committee, nevertheless, feel themselves obligated, not only to the Commission, but to the Christian public, to acknowledge the contributions received, and to make an exhibit of the disbursements of funds committed to their care.

It would add much to the value and interest of this report, if it contained a history of all the religious meetings, Bible classes, the specific kind and quantity of religious and secular reading distributed at Camp Morgan, with the incidents connected with the few who professed to have obtained hope in the atoning merits of Jesus. These with many others have left us to defend our country's liberty, some of whom will never return to gladden the heart of parent, brother, sister, or wife, but having offered their life upon their country's altar, may now be waiting in the mansions of our Father, to adorn the coronet of him who, in the labor of love, was instrumental in winning them to Christ.

The Committee have the satisfaction to state, that the soldiers at Camp Morgan were, with but few exceptions, very willing recipients of religious instruction, and eager for religious reading. The greatest difficulty which the Committee experienced, was that the demand was greater than the supply.

The plan adopted by the Committee to meet the religious wants of the camp, was on each Sabbath morning to distribute tracts, religious papers, and periodicals; in the afternoon to have Bible classes and public preaching by some one of the city pastors, and in the evening, prayer-meeting, interspersed with short addresses and exhortations, and at the solicitation of some of the

officers and men, a week-day evening prayer-meeting was conducted with marked interest and apparent good results. The prayer-meetings and preaching were usually held in the mess-room, which would accommodate between nine hundred and one thousand persons. The meetings were generally well represented by the officers and men in camp, and who very generally participated in the exercises of the meetings.

It is but due to state, that a large portion of the reading matter distributed by the Committee, was the voluntary contribution of citizens of Buffalo.

The following are the principal varieties, and the estimated quantities distributed to the soldiers while at Camp Morgan: 1200 copies Buffalo Christian Advocate, 600 Gospel Messenger, 200 Christian Banner, 200 Sunday-School Times, 2000 Sunday-School Banner, 1000 Child's Paper, 400 pamphlets, 400 volumes library books, 40,000 pages religious tracts, besides Bibles and Testaments.

The total of money received by the Committee, .		$671 05
Forwarded to United States Christian Commission, ...	$590 25	
Local disbursements, ...	56 80	
Money and subscriptions on hand, . .	24 00	
		$671 05

In conclusion, the Committee would express their deep interest in the work, and acknowledge that they, while endeavoring to water others, have themselves been greatly refreshed. It has been a happy privilege to them, to extend the hand of friendship to the defenders of our country's rights, and assure them that they have a deep interest in the prayers and warm sympathies of the Christian hearts of this nation.

JOHN D. HILL, JOHN F. ERNST,
N. A. HALBURT, E. A. SWAN,
FRANCIS P. WOOD, S. D. SIKES,
WM. L. FRENCH, J. S. FOSDICK,
Committee.

CHICAGO.

A great work has been done by this Committee. They have sent out twenty-six gentlemen and four ladies as commissioned

delegates. These good Samaritans have visited the camps, hospitals, and battle-fields at Madison, Wisconsin; Peoria, Springfield, Cairo, Mound City, and Rockford, Illinois; Indianapolis, and Laporte, Indiana; Columbus and Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; Corinth and Memphis, Tennessee; Helena, Arkansas; Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Memphis, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They have distributed over four hundred packages of stores.

In their home work they have had the co-operation of one hundred and fifty members of their Association, and several hundred Christian gentlemen and ladies of that city and elsewhere. More than twelve hundred religious meetings have been held by them. They have built a chapel in Camp Douglass, near the city, that would hold over one thousand persons. They furnished the materials, and the soldiers with hearty good will did all the work of building. Here daily meetings have been held, both among our own soldiers and rebel prisoners. Some of these meetings were seasons of unsurpassed interest; over a thousand were present on some occasions at the prayer-meetings, and revivals were in progress for weeks at a time, and from twelve to twenty came forward every night, sorrowing for sin and asking prayer. Quantities of playing-cards were obtained in exchange for religious reading.

To keep alive the interest of the community in this good work thirty-eight public meetings have been assembled, where the claims of the cause and its workings have been presented. They have expended more than four thousand dollars, have distributed fifty-four thousand hymn books, and many thousands of Testaments, books, papers, and tracts, to the value of several thousands of dollars.

Soldiers' Communion.

After a revival, and as some regiments were about to leave Camp Douglass, it was determined to have a Communion season before they went. The chaplains of the regiments were of different denominations, but the Christian Commission united all. The arrangements were made by Mr. Farwell, one of its members, in conference with the chaplains, and it was held in their chapel. The Sabbath came. Long before the hour the chapel was densely crowded; the ministers with difficulty reached

the platform. Chaplain Hagerty, after singing and prayer, stated the object of the meeting and announced the order of exercises. Chaplain Stoughton then simply and appropriately warned any against eating and drinking irreverently, and invited those who truly believed in Jesus, and desired to live a holy life, to eat and drink in remembrance of Christ, and offered prayer somewhat after the Episcopal form. The bread and wine were served by Mr. Hoag, a venerable elder, whose son was present as Colonel of the 113th Illinois, about to leave.

There sat the dusty and battle-worn veterans from the Potomac, who, for eighteen months had not been in the house of God, side by side with fresh recruits about to enter the combat; while the aged father served them all together, his own son among them, with the symbols of life to them, as they were memorials of the death of Jesus. Oh, it was a solemn scene. Sobs and sighs, that could not be repressed, broke the silence, and the scene will never be forgotten. Over two hundred communed. This done, Chaplain Brown offered thanksgiving, the venerable Chaplain McReynolds gave the exhortation to communicants, Rev. Mr. Pratt spoke of preparation for death, a German brother, in broken English, from a full heart, talked of the love of Christ, and Rev. Robert Patterson concluded the communion service by an address to the unconverted,—all showing forth the Lord's death till he come. Eighteen presented themselves for prayer; and fervent prayer was offered for them, followed by praise. And thus ended the Soldiers' Communion.

Camp Douglass.

Rev. Dr. Patterson writes under date November 1, 1862:

"God is evidently at work in the army. Here our meetings are well attended and conversions taking place daily. To-day, in noon meeting, a man who ten days ago was so wicked that the men removed his tent out of hearing, stood up to give glory to God for his conversion.

"One night a dancing party was going on, and the leader felt disposed to curse the praying men for spoiling the sport. However, the fiddler consented to lead the music of the prayer-meeting, and thinking 'John Brown' a solemn thing, he soon had the camp singing 'Glory Hallelujah.' But when the religious

nature of the meeting was explained, he played 'Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,' and the men all chimed in, and sang enthusiastically, the sentries around the camp calling out, when the line was read, 'Louder!' and joining in the singing. Thirty came forward for prayers at the close of the meeting. When the services closed, the person who was so angry because the amusements had been interrupted, got upon a box and made an address, of which this was the conclusion: 'Now, all you fellows that mean to give up this nonsense, just shy up your cards as I do,' and immediately a shower of cards went up into the air, and came down on the heads of the audience and were trodden into the mud.

THE WESTERN ARMY COMMITTEE,

At St. Louis, had much to discourage and hinder them during all the earlier progress of the war. They did a grand good work for their means and numbers. They held meetings in Camp Jackson, on the very ground where the Secession forces surrendered to the brave Gen. Lyon, and in the hospitals and elsewhere, and in Camp Benton they kept up a semi-weekly prayer-meeting, attended sometimes by eight hundred or one thousand soldiers. Often they secured preaching for them, and multitudes gathered to hear. An incident in one of these meetings may serve to show how the men were moved oftentimes.

A Whole Regiment Pledged not to Utter an Oath.

A St. Louis regiment was recruited under the then Colonel, now General Fisk, of the Christian Commission, and was ready to leave for the field. The occasion was used for having a special service. Five thousand people assembled. The regiment was massed in front in the centre. Whilst the speaker was addressing the men about profanity, the Colonel begged him to pause a moment, and himself rose and suggested to his men that he thought their Colonel could do all the swearing necessary for the whole regiment, and asked them if they were willing to leave it all for him to do. Then proposed that all who would pledge themselves not to utter an oath until they had first heard one from his lips, should lift up their hands. Instantly every hand was up, and the whole thousand pledged.

Daily Worship Established and Kept Up by the Soldiers.

Many Christians who had kept silence before were induced to come out openly, backsliders reclaimed, and sinners converted, in Camp Benton. At last, one day, to the delight of the Army Committee and their helpers, they found that several soldiers in the convalescent ward of the hospital had banded themselves to take turns in conducting a daily service open to all.

Great good was accomplished by these things, and also by the large amount of good religious reading matter distributed by the Committee.

In September last, in connection with a visit to them of the Secretary of the Commission, the Army Committee held their first public meeting, which was large, enthusiastic, and resulted in a liberal contribution and subscription, and an increase of the Committee in numbers, and a wide expansion of plans and operations.

Rev. Mr. Emory was immediately enlisted as a general agent, to visit the various armies in the Western field. With him Rev. Glen Wood, of the American Tract Society, was associated. Their first journey is described in the following

Graphic Letter.

Leaving St. Louis, we visited the camps, hospitals, and military posts at Cairo, Columbus, Memphis, Helena, Jackson, Bolivar, and Corinth, seeing vast numbers of our troops, preaching constantly and distributing our publications to thousands of men starving for mental and spiritual food.

Services on a Steamboat.

We conducted morning and evening services on the steamboat with a large attendance from the passengers, evidently interfering seriously with the gamblers, who seem always to infest the boats of the Lower Mississippi. So much interest was manifested in our work that a collection was proposed and taken. This was encouraged and materially aided by a speech from the Hon. Mr. N—— of Memphis, formerly a member of Congress. Twenty-seven dollars were contributed to furnish reading to the soldiery.

The Need and Value of Religious Reading.

A chaplain told me that so long as his supplies of reading lasted there was a good degree of order and morality maintained in the regiment; but when he lost his library, and had no more tracts and papers for distribution, the boys began to play cards, first for amusement, then for money, and a gambling mania spread over the camp, carrying with it other vices, and making the camp hideous by its iniquity; and he could have no power to check the spreading desolation. How heartily he greeted our coming! Oh that every friend of his country could see the earnest greed with which these publications are received by the great majority of the men; then I am sure they would be as ready to help satisfy the demand as they have been to persuade the men to engage in the service of their country.

A Model Chaplain.

At Helena we were cordially entertained by the Rev. J. G. Forman, serving as postmaster and post-chaplain. He is one of the finest specimens of a truly devoted, active, laborious chaplain that I have met. Receiving and distributing some four thousand letters per day, work enough for one man, he could not rest with all the churches of the village confiscated to hospital purposes, and no worship in town on the Sabbath. He sought and obtained the reservation of one church for service, where we preached morning and evening to a full and most attentive audience, many standing in the aisles or sitting upon the floor.

Mr. Forman is deeply interested in the thousands of needy and suffering contrabands which are gathered there, as at every military post held by our forces. He rode with us to their camp, where we held one of the most solemn and melting services it was ever my melancholy pleasure to attend. What can be done for the souls of these poor outcasts?

A Chaplain's Convention.

At the chaplain's room we held a meeting of the chaplains of the post, nearly all of whom were present, fourteen in number. That meeting was one of the deepest interest. For two hours we conversed, sang, and prayed together. Each man gave a

brief statement of the moral and religious history, present condition, and spiritual wants of his regiment. It was like a real Colporteur Convention.

Those two hours knit our hearts together, revived hopes, quickened graces, created friendships, revealed moral desolations in the army, alarmed fears, and inspired new resolutions of devotion, toil, prayer, and faith, which must constitute a new era in the history of that army, if it shall continue together either in camp or in the field.

Preaching on a Rail-car.

Arriving at Bolivar, we found everything was crowded forward to Grant's army at La Grange; but a bridge on the line of the railroad, six miles below Bolivar, was not quite finished. From the expectation momentarily of a despatch by telegraph that all was ready, trains were detained, and being all heavily laden with troops and munitions of war, we had by Sabbath morning acres of men, teams, and railroad trains, all waiting for the one word, "Forward."

Here in the midst of these crowds we extemporized a meeting. I climbed upon a loaded platform-car in the train lying alongside the dépôt, and with Mr. E—— standing in the crowd below me, we began to sing, and the crowds came rushing together. What an audience, and what an occasion! I spoke with heart and mind full of fearful forebodings of the evil that awaits us when our families shall hold in their bosoms a million of the sons and brothers who shall have had one or more years of training in those dreadful schools of lying, profanity, theft, robbery, plunder, rapine, obscenity, licentiousness, gambling, drunkenness, and every other crime into which the unbridled lusts and passions of men hurl them, afforded by desolating armies. After preaching to them in all the fulness of my soul for half an hour, I gave them the salutations of friends from home, all of whom are looking with longing eyes for their return, and asking with trembling hearts and fearful anticipations, "What characters will they bring, and what influence will they exert upon our children and our homes when they return?"

Moistened eyes and the warm greetings and hearty shakes of the hand thereafter told beyond mistake, that however deep these

men may have sunk in depravity, they are not impervious to the melting influences of friendship and religion sent down to them from the homes, churches, and Sabbath-schools they have left behind. Oh let Christians and patriots at home awake and work for their salvation!

Sad Scenes at Corinth.

At Corinth we were welcomed to a soldier's quarters and comforts by a truly Christian gentleman, Colonel Chetlain, commander of the post. He gave us every attention; helping us to obtain the object of our visit at the earliest possible moment, and with the least possible labor. We found nearly two thousand men in the hospitals wounded or sick. The two hotels of the place were so crowded with them, that it was difficult to obtain space enough to sit down on the floor. Here, as everywhere, our visit was hailed with delight. The boys were glad to see the face of a friend and hear from home, and be assured that their names are often mentioned around the firesides they had left, and that messages of instruction were to be hereafter furnished them in our books and tracts.

Colonel Chetlain rode with us over the battle-field of Corinth, and described the scenes of the two days' strife. We stood before Fort Robinet and beside the grave of that desperate rebel General Rogers, where thirty-six of his brave followers lay in one pile within six feet of the ditch. We stood upon the spots where Generals Hackleman and Oglesby fell, cheering on their troops, in that deadly conflict. Over fifteen hundred of the enemy lie in the graves to which they were committed by our victorious troops after their surviving companions had fled the field. Oh the horrible devastation of war! May God speedily bring it to a righteous and perpetual end.

As a result of this journey, and a circular sent to chaplains, soon the Western Army Committee were in communication with one hundred regiments, and were supplying hungering hosts with the bread of life.

Two more public meetings have been held by them in behalf of their work; three in all.

Two hundred and forty-seven meetings have been held with the

soldiers, 26,996 books, 8403 pamphlets, 720,306 pages of tracts, 41,461 papers, 9519 Bibles and Testaments have been distributed. Two thousand two hundred and fifty-one dollars have been expended in the work.

PEORIA.

A camp having been formed at this place, the Association at once formed a committee, and entered upon the work of caring for the soldiers while they were within reach, and before they entered the war.

They established prayer-meetings, which were held each night in the different regiments, so long as they remained, over two months. Eighty such meetings were held. God looked with approval on these efforts, and blessed them, pouring out His spirit abundantly, large numbers coming forward nightly for prayers, Christians consecrating themselves anew to Christ, prodigals returning to their Father's house, and men long hardened in sin, anxiously inquiring, "What shall I do to be saved?"

A reflex influence of these efforts is worthy of mention. The daily noon prayer-meeting of the Association, which had diminished to an attendance of fifteen, increased in numbers and influence, until it became perhaps the largest in the United States, showing that still they that water shall themselves be watered.

They expended two hundred and seventy dollars, and distributed four thousand five hundred hymn-books, four thousand Testaments, and over thirty thousand pages of tracts, and other religious reading, one thousand pamphlets, and five thousand papers.

They put a stop to gambling, and obtained all the cards from four regiments. One pack remained in the last regiment, in the hands of an officer, who had refused all solicitations to part with it. But when, on the parting day, the brethren of the Association came down to the cars to say God bless you, the Captain came forward, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Here, Hedley, I want to give you something. This is the last pack I shall ever handle," and put it into his hands, and the five regiments went off with no cards, and many newborn Christians among them, the fruits of this labor of love.

In answer to the inquiry, "What have you done besides for

the soldiers?" the Commission received the following interesting answer:

"Our efforts have been made almost entirely with the soldiers in camp here. We have forwarded tracts, &c., to the chaplains of several regiments now in Tennessee and Mississippi.

"We have a Ladies' Aid Society in this place, that are and have been for the last year and a half, actively engaged in sending supplies to our sick and wounded soldiers. They have now an agent in the South, with a large amount of sanitary stores, &c., for the wounded in the last two battles.

"Our Association intend sending, in a few weeks, a suitable person to labor as a travelling chaplain among our soldiers, pointing them to Jesus, and endeavoring to persuade them to take Him as their friend.

"The writer holds a commission from your Association, and will have occasion to use it in a short time.

"Yours, truly,

"WILLIAM REYNOLDS,

"President Y. M. C. A. of Peoria."

THE ARMY COMMITTEE OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,

Has labored under many embarrassments, but has persevered in the good work, and is now in a condition to exert a wide influence. They need much aid to enable them to supply the fifteen or twenty thousand soldiers around them, who are all looking to them for religious reading and instruction. They have had thirty-two men engaged in the work, besides many ladies who have assisted. They have held meetings for preaching each Sabbath in all the hospitals, and also meetings for preaching and prayer in the camps around the city. They have distributed two thousand books, three thousand five hundred papers, fifteen hundred pamphlets, and one hundred and ten thousand pages of tracts.

The Commission have given them all the aid the treasury would permit, and will gladly do more, if the means are furnished. Testaments distributed through Mr. Buckley, estimated at ten thousand.

COMMENDATIONS FROM DISTINGUISHED MEN.

From President Lincoln.

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,
December 12th, 1861.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"Your letter of the 11th inst., and accompanying plan, both of which are returned as a convenient mode of connecting this with them, have just been received. Your Christian and benevolent undertaking for the benefit of the soldiers, is too obviously proper and praiseworthy to admit any difference of opinion. I sincerely hope your plan may be as successful in execution as it is just and generous in conception.

"Your obedient servant,
"A. LINCOLN.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
"Chairman U. S. Christian Commission, Philadelphia, Pa."

From the Same.

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,
February 22d, 1863.

"REV. ALEXANDER READ.

"MY DEAR SIR: Your note by which you, as General Superintendent of the United States Christian Commission, invite me to preside at a meeting to be held this day at the Hall of the House of Representatives in this city is received.

"While, for reasons which I deem sufficient, I must decline to preside, I cannot withhold my approval of the meeting, and its worthy objects. Whatever shall be sincerely and in God's name, devised for the good of the soldier and seaman, in their hard spheres of duty, can scarcely fail to be blessed; and whatever shall tend to turn our thoughts from the unreasoning and uncharitable passions, prejudices, and jealousies incident to a great national trouble such as ours, and to fix them upon the vast and long-enduring consequences, for weal or for woe, which are to result from the struggle; and especially to strengthen our reliance on the Supreme Being for the final triumph of the right, cannot but be well for us all.

"The birthday of Washington and the Christian Sabbath coin-

ciding this year, and suggesting together the brightest interests of this life and of that to come, is most propitious for the meeting proposed.

"Your obedient servant,

"A. LINCOLN."

From Secretary Cameron.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, December 13th, 1861.

"SIR:

"This Department approves the object of the United States Christian Commission, as set forth in the circular announcing their appointment by a convention of the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations, held in the city of New York, November 14th and 15th, 1861.

"This Department is deeply interested in the 'spiritual good of the soldiers in our army,' as well as in their 'intellectual improvement, and social and physical comfort,' and will cheerfully give its aid to the benevolent and patriotic of the land, who desire to improve the condition of our troops.

"It confidently looks for beneficial results from so noble an enterprise, and begs you to express to the Commission its sincere wish for the success of this great work in behalf of the soldier.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"SIMON CAMERON,
"Secretary of War.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
"Chairman U. S. Christian Commission, Philadelphia, Pa."

Memorandum from Secretary Stanton.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, January 24th, 1863.

"Bishop Janes is authorized to state, that he has received assurance from the Secretary of War, that every facility consistent with the exigencies of the service, will be afforded to the Christian Commission, for the performance of their religious and benevolent purposes in the armies of the United States, and in the forts, garrisons, and camps, and military posts."

From the Secretary of the Navy.

"NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 16th, 1861.

"SIR:

"I have received your letter of the 11th instant, asking an expression of the Department as to the objects of the United States Christian Commission, to promote the welfare of the soldiers, sailors, marines, &c.

"The Department will be gratified with any legitimate means to promote the welfare (present and future) of all who are in the service.

"I am, very respectfully,
"Your obedient servant,
"GIDEON WELLES.

"MR. GEORGE H. STUART,
"Chairman United States Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

From the Postmaster-General.

"WASHINGTON, January 5th, 1863.

"DEAR SIR:

"The Christian Commission, of which you are Chairman, have in hand a noble work, and are performing it, I am well assured, as only a labor of love can be performed.

"Yours, respectfully,
"M. BLAIR.

"To GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
"Chairman United States Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

From General McClellan.

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
WASHINGTON, January 8th, 1862.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ., Philadelphia.

"DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, informing me of the appointment, by the Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, of a Commission to take active measures to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of our soldiers and sailors.

"The objects of the Commission are such as meet my cordial approval, and will, if carried out in the proper spirit, prove of great value.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
"GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN."

From Major-General Joseph Hooker.

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA., February 21st, 1863.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
"Chairman Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

"SIR: The commanding General directs me to acknowledge your communication of the 16th inst., and state in reply that the only gentleman from your Commission who has presented himself at these Headquarters has received all the necessary passes and transportation he required, and had every facility afforded him for the accomplishment of his praiseworthy mission.

"Be assured that all others shall receive the same, and every attention at his hands, that the exigencies of the service will permit.

"He suggests, however, that under existing orders, those gentlemen of your Commission desirous of visiting the army, should procure their passes and transportation from the proper authorities in Washington before leaving there.

"Thanking you for the kind expression of your regard for, and confidence in our beloved Chief,

"I am, Sir, very respectfully,
"Your obedient servant,
"J. DICKINSON,
"Lieut. Col. and Asst. Adjt.-General."

From Admiral Foote.

"BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING,
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 28th, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"It is with extreme regret that I am compelled, from a heavy pressure of public business, to decline your kind invitation to be present, and participate in the exercises at the meeting of the Christian Commission on Thursday evening. The object and importance of your Commission cannot be over-estimated. It will supply a *hiatus* long wanting in the army and navy, and must enlist the sympathies and prayers of all true Christian patriots. To supply the spiritual wants of the public service on the battle-field, and upon the ocean, and to lead our warriors to go forward valiantly to the fight, acknowledging God as our Ruler, and

looking to Him for success, will, I have no doubt, soon cause this wicked rebellion to culminate in the restoration of our Union.

"I am, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"A. H. FOOTE.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

"Chairman of Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

From the Surgeon-General.

"SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
November 22d, 1862.

"DEAR SIR:

"I have received your letter with much satisfaction. I shall always be ready to aid the United States Christian Commission in any way that may be in my power.

"Yours, sincerely,

"W. A. HAMMOND.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

"Chairman United States Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

From Bishop McIlvaine.

"CINCINNATI, January 21st, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I have received to-day the invitation of the Committee of the Christian Commission for the Army, to address a meeting of the Commission, to be held in Philadelphia on the 29th inst. The letter having been sent to Gambier, where I do not reside, has taken all the while, between its date (the 12th) and this day, to reach me. I look upon the Commission as of immense importance, and rejoice in its usefulness, and would have great pleasure in attending its meetings; but I am at present unable to leave my house, and have no reason to expect to be well enough to do so in time for the meeting, should other circumstances favor my going on before the 29th.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours very truly,

"CHARLES P. MCILVAINE."

FACILITIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

The foregoing letters abundantly evince the goodwill of the Government. The memorandum of the Secretary of War, and the letters of General Hooker and Surgeon-General Hammond, assure the Commission and its friends, that all proper facilities will be afforded by the authorities for benefiting the army.

The following letter and telegram of

Rear Admiral Foote, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting,

give the like assurance concerning the Navy:

"BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING,
WASHINGTON, February 16th, 1863.

"ADMIRAL:

"This Bureau has been charged with the duty of attending to the requisitions of the Christian Commission of the Army and Navy, so far as the Navy is concerned. It is the wish of the Department to have forwarded moral and religious works, with hospital delicacies, &c., to the different squadrons, in vessels bound to these squadrons.

"You will please, therefore, have the beneficent object of the Christian Commission in view, and afford it every possible reasonable accommodation consistent with the public interest, and forward such articles as it wishes for the temporal and spiritual welfare of those engaged in the naval service.

"Please refer to the Bureau applications for passage, which must be made and indorsed by some one in connection with the Association.

"The officers of the Society are gentlemen of the highest standing in New York.

"Respectfully, &c.,
"A. H. FOOTE,
"Chief of Bureau.

"REAR ADMIRAL HIRAM PAULDING,
"Commandant Navy Yard, New York."

"BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING,
WASHINGTON, February 13th, 1863.

"ADMIRAL:

"The Secretary of the Navy has assigned this Bureau the duty of forwarding hospital delicacies, religious and moral works, as well as now and then a delegate,—all from the Christian Commission to the different squadrons.

"You will please, therefore, give a passage in the first store vessel, to Reverend James Gubby and George P. Drown, delegates to Port Royal. Also such stores and books, as can be sent in the vessel without detriment to the public service.

"Very respectfully,

"A. H. FOOTE,
"Chief of Bureau.

"REAR ADMIRAL HIRAM PAULDING,
"Commandant Navy Yard, New York."

SUPPLY OF THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.

One of the remarkable providences of God for the great national crisis through which we are passing, is the abundant supply of His word. The superabundant crops of the cereals, flooding the loyal States with breadstuffs for export as well as consumption, is not more extraordinary than the abundance of means vouchsafed the American Bible Society, at a time when unbelief anticipated the cessation, or at least great diminution of liberality in sustaining institutions of the kind.

The following letter from

Rev. Dr. Taylor, one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the American Bible Society,

shows that the gentlemen who administer its affairs, clearly "discern the times," and are equal to the providential demand and supply:

"AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE,
NEW YORK, February 10th, 1863.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
"Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

"MY DEAR SIR: The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, at their last monthly meeting, held February 5th,

adopted liberal measures for the full and continued supply of the army and navy with the Scriptures, with as little delay as may be necessary. Among other agencies for accomplishing this great work, we desire and respectfully solicit the efficient services of the Christian Commission and its branches. Our correspondence and experience of the invaluable aid of your organization, with its great facilities of transportation, and its ready access to the whole military and naval forces of the Government, and the direct personal nature of its ministry to the bodies and souls of our brave defenders, have begotten a degree of confidence in its faithfulness as a great distributing agency for our Society, which induces us to request your continued and enlarged co-operation. It surely affords reason for gratitude in these dark days, that Providence has raised up, and prepared our own and kindred institutions, whose united efforts are doing such unspeakable good to the men who fight our battles, and even to our enemies, whenever occasions offer. To God in Christ be all the glory, and from Him let us seek mercy and grace for our time of need.

"The plan of our Board of Managers provides for large grants of the New Testament, and other Scriptures, in whole or in part, which the Committee on Distribution are authorized to send out, as they may from time to time be requested; due report being made monthly to the Managers. Thus, the scheme specifies ample grants to the following auxiliaries and agencies at central points:

"To the Washington City Bible Society, for the army in Virginia, hospitals, camps, prisons, &c., within their range.

"To the Depository at St. Louis, for the use of the Christian Commission, and for distribution from that point.

"To the Louisville Bible Society, to be distributed under the supervision of Mr. William H. Bulkley, and from that point down into Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

"To the Maryland Bible Society, for distribution in the army, hospitals, forts, ships of war, in and about Baltimore, at Fortress Monroe, and in adjacent parts of Virginia, and among the population of Virginia.

"To the New York Branch of the Christian Commission, for distribution in the army and navy, hospitals, and general popula-

tion, at Newbern, North Carolina, and in parts adjacent; also at Beaufort, South Carolina, and other parts of that State.

"To New Orleans, as a centre for distribution in the same manner, under superintendence of a special agent, to be appointed, who shall act, as far as practicable, in unison with the Southwestern Bible Society, the Christian Commission, and others.

"At all the localities named above, we shall be glad to secure the aid of the Christian Commission in co-operation with our auxiliaries and agents, and where this is not practicable, by its own delegates acting as formerly, with and for us, among distant regiments and on the field of battle, or wherever the work and the men are ready.

"My dear brother and friend, every day adds new testimonies to the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the good providence of God, in the grand development of these combined labors of philanthropic and Christian usefulness. These are the bright and cheering aspects of the conflict, which, whatever its immediate issues may be, will in the end advance the glory of God in 'the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.' For God and our country let us move forward, as did the primitive Christians in times of war, pestilence, and famine, true to the faith of the glorious Cross, and true to all the great interests which we hold in trust for a perishing world.

"I am yours most sincerely,

"WILLIAM J. R. TAYLOR,

"Corresponding Secretary A. B. S."

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PAST.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Our progress has been amazing. An immense work has grown up within a few months. All expenses have been met. No debt has been incurred. More than a hundred pages are required for the most condensed report of the work and its incidents as given, whilst a great deal more has been reluctantly withheld for fear of enlargement beyond the limits of prudence for gratuitous circulation. The parable of the mustard seed has been signally exemplified; the least of all seeds, buried from the time of organization in November, 1861, until the Peninsular campaign in 1862, when it germinated,

has now, early in 1863, grown to be a great tree, filling the nation with benign influence. No arithmetic can compute its value. It cannot be weighed in money-scales nor estimated by dollars and cents.

The Christian sentiment of the loyal States has been elicited to sustain the Government and to relieve and benefit our brave men of the army and navy. The Government has been called on to confess and express its dependence upon God for support, and to manifest deep interest for the moral and religious welfare of our gallant defenders. *The Home and the Church* have been brought to the men in the field, and cheering, consoling intelligence from the men in the field to the home and the Church. Thousands of lives have been saved to the country and to loving home circles. Thousands have been led to the Savior, and hundreds of thousands comforted, instructed, and cheered in the hour of agony, despondency, or death.

These grand benefits have been gained at a cost in money collected and disbursed as amazingly small as the benefits are large. The glory of the work is its exemplification on a grand scale of true and noble Christian benevolence, and that glory is God's. It is God alone who, by His providence and spirit, has called out the hundreds of noble men to give time, talent, and toil for nothing, and induced facilities from Government, railroad companies, and telegraph lines, and the bestowment of stores by the people, which, if all were computed at current values, might reach a quarter or even half a million of dollars, while in all, as shown by the summary appended, less than fifty thousand dollars in money has been actually collected and disbursed for both *home work* and *work at the seat of war*, and it is God alone who has made the occasions and opened the hearts of the many thousands to receive the benefits bestowed. To Him be glory, world without end.

A BRIEF GLANCE AT THE FUTURE.

The work opening before us is so immense as to require a strong faith in Him who has led us and sustained us hitherto to embolden us to hope for its accomplishment. The following papers, published whilst this Report has been in press, will unfold the enlarged plans upon which we are entering:

"**Volunteer Chaplains for the Army.**

"The plan given below, having been submitted to the Executive Committee of the United States Christian Commission, was most cordially approved and adopted.

"Responses from pastors and others may be made either to the New York Committee, at No. 30 Bible House, New York, or to the United States Christian Commission, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

"By order of the Executive Committee.

"GEORGE H. STUART,
Chairman.

"W. E. BOARDMAN,
Secretary.

"One of the most gallant and devout of our Major-Generals declared publicly in the Representatives' Hall, on Washington's birthnight, that the chaplaincy system of the army had proved a failure. His own division of fifteen regiments—one of the best in the service—had now but two chaplains remaining. We suppose the facts to be substantially these:

"1. A considerable proportion of army chaplains are among the most excellent and self-denying men in the ministry.

"2. Many regiments entered and have continued in the service without a chaplain, and many others are now destitute on account of the resignation, sickness, or incompetency of those appointed, and with no prospect of supplying the vacancies.

"3. The law under which chaplains are appointed defines no position, gives no protection, and *prescribes no duties;* so that the best men are liable to discouragement under unfavorable local influences; and the religious interests of the army must be imperfectly provided for until the law is modified.

"4. Owing to a variety of causes, not a few unworthy incumbents of this most important office are still in commission.

"The Government cannot be held responsible for this state of facts, or remedy its evils; nor is it practicable for regiments in the field to supply their lack of competent spiritual guides, if so disposed. The Christianity of the country owes it to the great Head of the Church, to itself, and to a noble army, to meet the emergency, and to meet it NOW.

"The New York Committee of the United States Christian Commission propose the following plan, earnestly requesting its immediate consideration by clerical bodies, pastors, and churches, and respectfully urging the promptest action:

"1. The voluntary enlistment of at least one minister of the Gospel, of talent, position, and approved adaptation to this special service, for each brigade of the army—say three hundred in all—during a period of two or three months each. Every city or large town can spare one pastor at least, and *the best one*, for this noble work; his pulpit being supplied by his ministerial brethren of the same or of different denominations in rotation, or otherwise. Each considerable ecclesiastical body can thus detail a representative for the army.

"2. Each volunteer chaplain may be accompanied by a layman from his own or a neighboring congregation, under appointment as a delegate of the Christian Commission, who shall aid in the distribution of the Scriptures, tracts, newspapers, and camp and hospital stores, and in holding meetings, or visiting the sick and wounded.

"3. The service thus proposed should be gratuitous; but the Christian Commission will defray all expenses of pastor and delegate going to, returning from, and while on the field, and furnish all needed publications, stores, and other means of usefulness. On this system:

"*The army* would have a demonstration of the benevolence of the Gospel, and of its ambassadors. The very presence of a reputable, experienced preacher of Christ in the camp, on the one errand of salvation, with no earthly reward, would be a living sermon. Able and earnest appeals to the consciences of officers and men, sobered by the exposures and disappointments of war, from esteemed pastors whose congregations have *lent* them for this mission of Christian charity, and whose motives to effort could not be questioned, must have great power. It would infuse new animation into the army. There is reason to believe that such labors would be universally welcomed by officers and soldiers.

"*The pastors and churches* might expect a blessing on their joint self-denial.

"*The country* needs the example of Christian patriotism and

devotion to so grand a spiritual object, as a counterpoise to the selfishness and spirit of faction so unhappily prevalent.

"*The Christianity of the country* needs for its own invigoration and revival, such a demonstration of unselfish vigor as would be afforded by the simultaneous devotion of three hundred of its ablest preachers to the Volunteer Chaplaincy service, among half a million of needy, waiting, dying souls.

"WILLIAM E. DODGE,
Chairman.

"30 BIBLE HOUSE, NEW YORK, March 3, 1863."

Explanatory Note.

It is not the design of the Commission to supersede the Government army and hospital chaplaincy systems, by this plan of voluntary chaplains, but to aid all faithful Government chaplains, the same as in the past, in their arduous responsibilities, by such personal assistance as they may desire, and our delegates may be able to render, and by a more generous and general supply of religious reading matter for distribution to their men; but more especially to supply, by voluntary service, the many thousands of our soldiers who have no Government chaplains to serve them, and thus to meet a great and terrible want in the army.

Much less is it intended by the statements made to disparage the usefulness or detract from the honor of faithful chaplains. They are worthy of all praise. Tried by discouragements under which many have fainted, they have endured hardships through summer's heat and winter's cold, from which many have fallen, and what is harder than all, they have borne reproaches, drawn upon them by unworthy men bearing the name, and malign misrepresentations from vile lips and pens, and through all have done nobly for their men, their country, and God.

"APPEAL FOR HELP.

"The United States Christian Commission, under full sanction of the President, the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, the Generals commanding the armies of the Union, and the Admirals commanding its squadrons, is prepared to minister, by its own volunteer, unpaid delegates,—Christian gentlemen of the highest respectability,—to the wants, religious and temporal, of every man, on land and on sea, wearing the national uniform.

"Its plan is to have at least one minister and one lay delegate in each brigade of the army and each squadron of the navy, to preach the Gospel, hold prayer-meetings, relieve the sick and wounded, instruct and console the dying, write to their friends at home, receive and distribute the Scriptures, books, papers, and tracts, with clothing and comforts, and accompany all with words of cheer to the men from home, and with prayer to God for His blessing upon them.

"Three hundred and seventy-four men have already enlisted as delegates, many of whom are still in the field and at work, whilst others, as minute men, hold themselves ready in case of a battle, at a moment's warning, to strap on blanket and haversack, take the express train, and go forth to minister to the wounded and dying.

"Thus, by the hands of its own self-sacrificing, respectable, responsible delegates, the Commission places whatever is committed to it in the hands of the very men for whom it is contributed in the most direct, speedy, and certain manner, enhanced by kind words and deeds from those who make the distribution.

"Nearly every office and store-room of the Commission is given rent free for its use; nearly every employé gives his services without salary; all railroads afford their facilities either free or at half price; over the wires of twenty-five thousand miles telegraph companies transmit despatches to and from the Commission without charge; and the Government gives free transportation over all its lines.

"Thus the money contributed to the Christian Commission goes directly, in publications and stores, to the relief and benefit of the noble men of our army and navy, with no material diminution for salaries, rents, freights, or expenses.

"Of the three thousand nine hundred and sixty-six boxes and barrels of stores, worth $153,000, contributed up to this date, scarcely one has failed of reaching the very men designed to be benefited by them, and that by the hands of delegates who, with full sanction of the authorities, have yet represented the homes of the men and commended the Savior to them. And the $52,000 in money bestowed on the Commission has accomplished a work which could not have been done for ten times the amount if all employés had been salaried and all facilities paid for,—a work, indeed, which *pay*, however large, could not have secured.

"The Christian Commission regards our brave defenders as *men, having both bodies and souls*, and aims to minister to their wants, both temporal and spiritual. Bodily relief to suffering men is important and imperative; without it, religious admonitions are in vain and a mockery. Therefore, the Commission receives and distributes clothing and com-

forts, and sends relief to the sick, wounded, and destitute, by every one of its delegates.

"Religious instruction and consolation are more priceless still, and the Commission, while meeting bodily wants, does not forget that God made men *living souls* to live by His own precious Word, and that '*there is none* other name given under heaven amongst men whereby we can be saved' but the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore sends as delegates only such men as love the Savior and His Word, and delight to point others to the Lamb of God.

"For economy, directness, comprehensiveness of aim, and certainty of execution, no other agency since the days of the Apostles excels this, and as a field the world never presented one of greater interest or promise.

"What a call upon all who believe in the Lord for help! A million of men, breasting the tide of rebellion, suffering the loss of home and home influences, and of all religious privileges, subject to the perils, calamities, and vicissitudes of camp and battle-field, exposed to the inclemency of winter, appealing to us for help!

"From every division and squadron comes the cry for delegates, clothing, comforts, and, louder than all, for the Word of God and religious reading matter.

"Then, too, great movements and battles are at hand. Thousands will fall. And now is the time for renewed, generous, intense effort; for 'the night cometh' speedily to many of our brave defenders, when, alas, help will be too late for them.

"For further information, directions, and documents, address the Rev. W. E. Boardman, Secretary, No. 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

"All stores should be addressed to George H. Stuart, Chairman, No. 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia; and money be sent to Joseph Patterson, Western Bank, Philadelphia.

"Rollin H. Neale, Boston.
Charles Demond, Boston.
E. S. Janes, New York.
James Eells, Brooklyn.
Mitchell H. Miller, Washington.
George H. Stuart, Philadelphia.
John P. Crozer, Philadelphia.
Jay Cooke, Philadelphia.
M. L. R. P. Thompson, Cincinnati.
Col. Clinton B. Fisk, St. Louis.
John V. Farwell, Chicago.
John D. Hill, Buffalo.

"*Members of the United States Christian Commission.*

"Philadelphia, March 16, 1863."

APPEAL FOR RELIGIOUS PAPERS.

In addition to the above, we have issued an appeal to the readers of each and all the religious papers in behalf of the soldiers in hospital and camp, to supply them with the papers of their choice, in the following terms.

"Religious Newspapers for Soldiers.

"The soldiers in the field and in the hospitals are eager for religious newspapers. Their own familiar family denominational papers are the most prized of all. They are read from beginning to end, and passed from hand to hand, until quite worn out. They revive home, church, and Sabbath-school associations; keep up the knowledge of passing events, religious and secular; increase intelligence, prevent demoralization, inspire cheerfulness, encourage patriotism, and strengthen heroic resolve; and above all present Gospel truths in articles terse and attractive, and illustrate their benign power by narratives of conversions, revivals, and hallowed Christian examples of holy living and happy dying.

"The Christian Commission would rejoice to present by its delegates and chaplains the best loved paper of each soldier to him every week; but, even if its treasury could bear the expenses, which it would not, the Commission could not devote means contributed for *general purposes*, to the purchase of *denominational papers*. It can be done, however, by special contributions for the purpose, and to this end an appeal is now made to the friends of each and all the religious papers of the land. Let the friends of each contribute to the paper itself directly all they can afford for the purpose, and the Commission will see that the papers are placed in the hands of the soldiers.

"It is designed that an article similar to this shall appear in every other paper, and thus an appeal be made to the friends of each through its own columns. And the Commission has this special request to make of editors, in behalf of the soldiers, that they will not permit the matter to drop, but call attention to it from week to week, until a supply is secured in some measure

commensurate with the vastness of our army, and the eagerness of our soldiers.

"This paper will furnish ——— copies weekly, during three months, for five dollars, or ——— copies for ten dollars, or ——— for twenty-five dollars, or ——— for fifty dollars, or ——— for one hundred dollars.

"*Those who may desire to contribute for the purpose of sending this paper, will please forward the amount to its publishers, who will furnish the papers to the Commission.*

"GEORGE H. STUART,
Chairman.

"W. E. BOARDMAN,
Secretary."

A ROUGH ESTIMATE.

To carry out the plans on which we are entering will require vast enlargement of means. Three hundred men, although their services are freely given, will yet for their expenses require a large sum every week, and to supply them with publications for free and frequent distribution, will require a sum still larger. The American Bible Society will furnish the Sacred Scriptures in abundance to meet this the first necessity of the work. The Presbyterian Board of Publication has already made one grant of two hundred dollars in its valuable works for the soldiers, and one of its friends has given us through it one thousand dollars more. Other Boards and Societies of Publication have given us aid by reduction of prices, and by contributions of books, papers, and tracts; and we may reasonably hope for increasing assistance from these sources, as the unexampled facilities of the Commission as a distributing agency for the army and navy become known. And we can scarcely fail of receiving from the people, all the stores required to fill the hands of our delegates with the means of relieving the urgent bodily wants of the men they seek to benefit. The people whose pastors give their services will surely supply their own pastors with all they may need for distribution, while engaged in the work, and if they should in any measure fail to do this, others, when they understand the certainty, the wisdom, the kindness, the economy with which their benefactions will be bestowed upon the men for whom

they are intended, will not fail to supply the lack by their abundance.

Yet the two things, *expenses of the delegates* and *publications for them to distribute*, will absorb large sums of money, aside from all other and all incidental expenditures. Five dollars a week for each of three hundred men, would amount to at least *six thousand five hundred dollars a month* for them all, and their expenses cannot well fall below five dollars a week.

Two cents a week in reading matter, to each of our one million of men in arms, would amount to the grave sum of more than eighty-five thousand dollars a month. These two items alone, therefore, reckoning them at the lowest rates of the most rigidly economical supply, would amount to at least ninety-one thousand five hundred dollars a month.

HOW TO MEET THE DEMAND.

To meet this great demand, it is needful that the work of organization should be vastly extended, and the work of collection vigorously pushed.

Let every city, town, and village form and report to us its Army Committee, to hold meetings, collect and forward money and supplies, and to select and recommend men to go as delegates. If in any place a committee has been formed, and the work successfully begun, let those engaged in it go out into other places around them, large or small, and organize there. Let every man feel himself called upon by the providence of God, and authorized not only to do what he can himself personally, but also to organize others for the work, and press them into it.

If, however, in any place, a committee has not been formed, do not wait for a visit from any one from any other place, but organize immediately; and if information is needed, send at once to the central office in Philadelphia, or the office in New York or Boston, or the place most convenient, for documents and instructions, or for some one to visit and address the people.

Many look upon the Christian Commission as belonging exclusively to the Young Men's Christian Associations, and think, therefore, that if they do not belong to an Association, or if there is no Association in the place of their residence, nothing is to

be done by them, or in their place of abode. Not so. The Christian Commission is for the benefit of *all the men of our army and navy*, and for the use in this work of all the people at home, male and female, old and young; and if its work in the field is extended to all, it will be by the help of all classes and all people at home.

B. F. Manierre, Treasurer, in account with Christian Commission.

Dr.		Cr.	
To private subscriptions, acknowledged in papers, . .	$915 37	By bills paid for Commission,	$860 15
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Troy, .	79 42	" incidental expenses, . .	51 03
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, .	100 00	" expenses delegates, . . .	141 88
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Buffalo, .	50 00	" George H. Stuart, acting Treasurer, Philadelphia, remitted him, ...	100 00
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Amsterdam, ...	51 72	" Joseph Patterson, Treasurer, Philadelphia, to close account, ...	43 45
	$1,196 51		$1,196 51

New York, August, 1862.

George H. Stuart, Acting Treasurer, in account with Christian Commission.

Dr.		Cr.	
To private subscriptions, acknowledged in papers, . .	$4,869 35	By expenses Delegates and Agencies, ...	$2,648 59
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, .	3,405 00	" freight paid,*	392 76
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Portland,	62 60	" incidental expenses paid, .	54 15
To cash received from B. F. Manierre, Treasurer, N. Y.,	100 00	" bills paid, . . , . .	3,767 13
		" Joseph Patterson, to close account, ...	1,574 32
	$8,436 95		$8,436 95

Philadelphia, September 24, 1862.

Joseph Patterson, Treasurer, in account with Christian Commission.

Dr.		Cr.	
To cash received from B. F. Manierre, late Treasurer, .	$43 45	By expenses Delegates and Agencies, ...	$2,550 92
To cash received from Geo. H. Stuart, late Acting Treas., .	1,574 32	" bills paid, ...	8,947 97
To private subscriptions, acknowledged in papers, . .	8,590 99	" freight paid,*	719 24
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, .	1,100 00	" balance, cash on hand, .	673 09
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Brooklyn,	100 00		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., St. Louis,	1,114 00		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Albany,	52 81		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Bangor, Me., ...	86 75		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Buffalo, .	228 90		
	$12,891 22		$12,891 22

Philadelphia, January 29, 1863.

* Most of these freight expenses were paid prior to arrangements with many roads for free transportation.

SUMMARY OF THE SEVERAL REPORTS.

	Men to battle field.	Men in Home Work.	Meetings with soldiers and sailors.	Public Meetings.	Bibles & Testaments distributed.	Bound Books.	Pages of Books, Tracts, &c.	Hymn-Books.	Papers.	Magazines.	Temperance Documents.	Libraries.	Packages.	Money expended by local Committees.	Estimated value of Stores.
Washington Association, .	30	100	500	5	18,960		450,384		25,620	2,000				$635 35	
" Agency, . .													307		$9,000
Chicago, ...	26	150	1,200	38	2,400	5,000	800,000	54,000	20,000				400	4,060 00	12,000
Baltimore, ...	60	490	860		2,000	5,600	4,000,000	1,800	64 000				300	2,821 16	9,000
Philadelphia, ...		200	345	62	1,525	9,708	600,000	30,054	38,700	3,500				3,039 18	
St. Louis, ...	2	30	247	3	9,519	26,996	720,306		41,461	8,403			160	2,251 00	Supposed to be only publications.
Boston, ...			613	36	1,600	3,150	187,966	2,000	9,700			8		2,977 74	
Brooklyn, ...	3	15	60	20		10,000	100,000		25,000	15,000			220	3,790 41	Their estimate, 21,000.
Louisville, ...		32	40		10,000	2,000	110,000		3,500	1,500					
Peoria, Illinois, ...		16	80	2	4,000		30,000	5,000	5,000	1,000				270 00	
E. C. Delavan, Esq., . .											300,000				
	121	1,033	3,945	166	50,004	62,454	6,998,656	92,854	232,981	31,403	300,000	8	1,390	$19,844 84	
Central Office, Philada ,	235			22	52,556	53,303	3,955,050	37,843	151,800	3,250		15	2,304	20,315 45	91,150
Totals, . .	356	1,033	3,945	188	102,560	115,757	10,953,706	130,697	384,781	34,653	300,000	23	3,691	$40,160 29	$142,150

United States Christian Commission.

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 16, 1861.

CENTRAL OFFICE, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

Send Publications and Stores to George H. Stuart, Chairman, 13 Bank Street.
" Money to Joseph Patterson, Treasurer, Western Bank.
" Letters to Rev. W. E. Boardman, 13 Bank Street.

NEW YORK OFFICE, 30 Bible House, New York.

Send Publications and Stores to Christian Commission, 30 Bible House.
" Money to James M. Brown, Treasurer, Brown Brothers & Co., 59 Wall Street.
" Letters to Rev. R. S. Cook, D.D., Secretary, 30 Bible House.

BOSTON OFFICE, Rooms Y. M. C. A. Tremont Temple.

Send Publications and Stores to L. P. Rowland, Agent, Tremont Street.
" Money to Joseph Story, Treasurer, 112 Tremont Temple.
" Letters to E. S. Tobey, Chairman, or C. Demond, 4 Court Street.

BALTIMORE OFFICE, 77 Baltimore Street.

Send Publications, Stores and Money to G. & Griffith, Chairman, 77 Baltimore Street.
" Letters to Rev. J. McJilton, D.D., Secretary.

WASHINGTON OFFICE, 343 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Send Publications and Stores to F. E. Shearer, Agent, 343 Pennsylvania Avenue.
" Money and Letters to W. Ballantyne, Chairman, 428 Seventh Street.

ST. LOUIS OFFICE, 9 South Fifth Street.

Send Publications and Stores to J. W. McIntyre, 9 South Fifth Street.
" Money and Letters to E. D. Jones, Exchange Bank.

CHICAGO OFFICE, Rooms Young Men's Christian Association.

Send all to John R. Farwell, Chairman.

Young Men's Christian Associations Generally

Are requested to act as Agencies for the Christian Commission.